



# The Griffon

This yearbook may contain images, language, or other content that could be offensive to modern users. The content may be disturbing and offensive, but should be viewed within the context of that period. The material is being presented as part of a historical record and in no way reflects the values of Missouri Western State University.

# The Griffon

Volume 8

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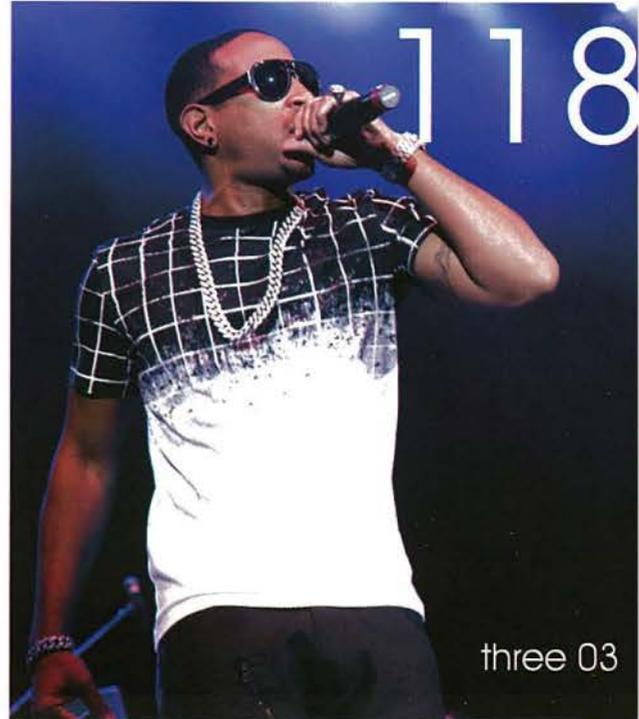
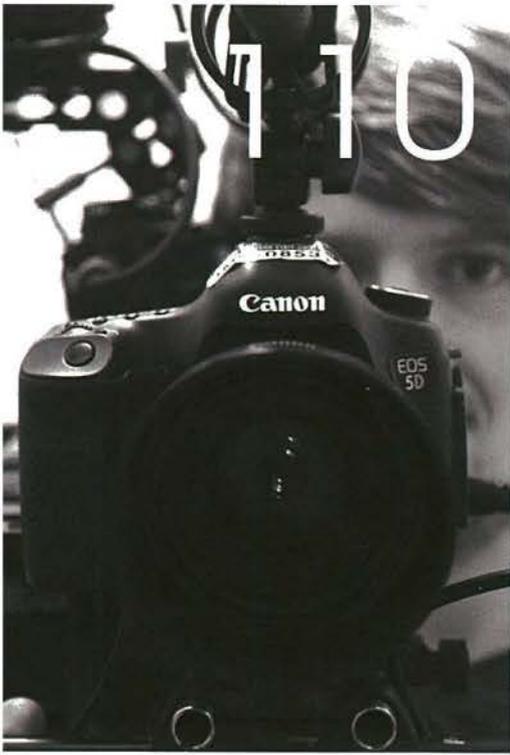
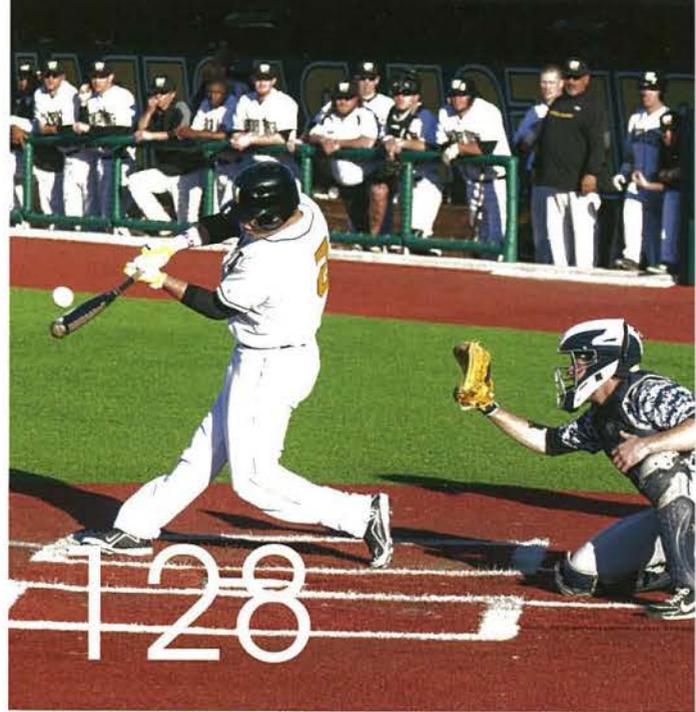
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Dear Griffons:

It is my pleasure to provide the introductory letter to the 2015 Centennial Griffon Yearbook.

First, it is a very important year in the history of Missouri Western. We are officially 100 years old. I doubt that there is a better publication to tell our story throughout the years than our very own yearbook. It has been a very rich history filled with some incredible moments.

Our university has lived through numerous wars, social movements, and remarkable achievements in the past 100 years. We have always been here in St. Joseph, Missouri doing our best to improve the lives of our students through higher education. I think that we have done an excellent job, and we very optimistically look forward to the next 100 years.

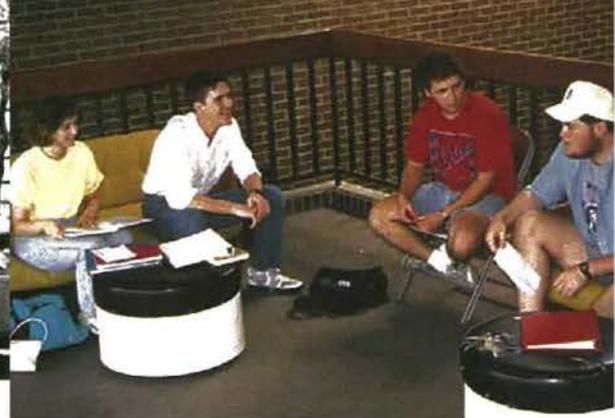
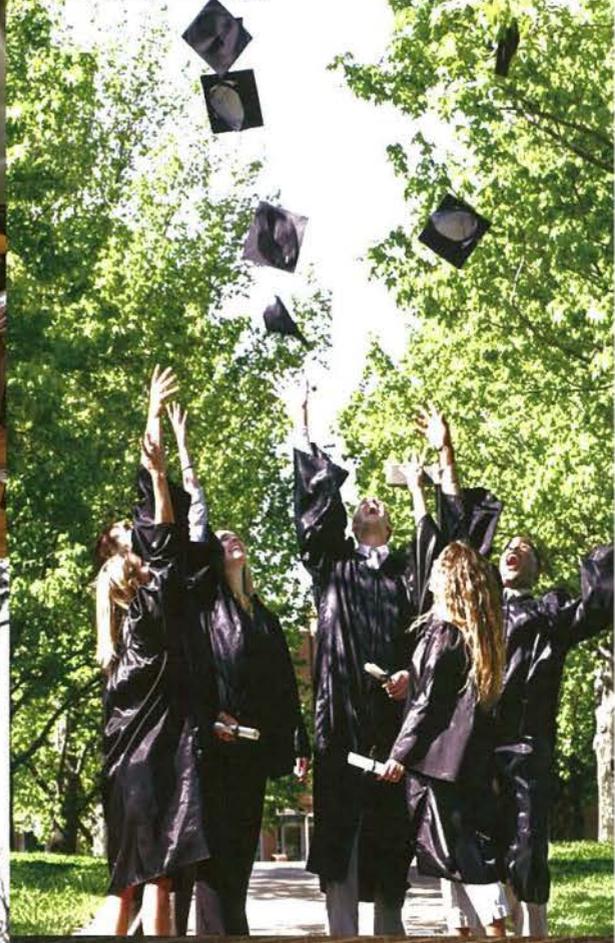
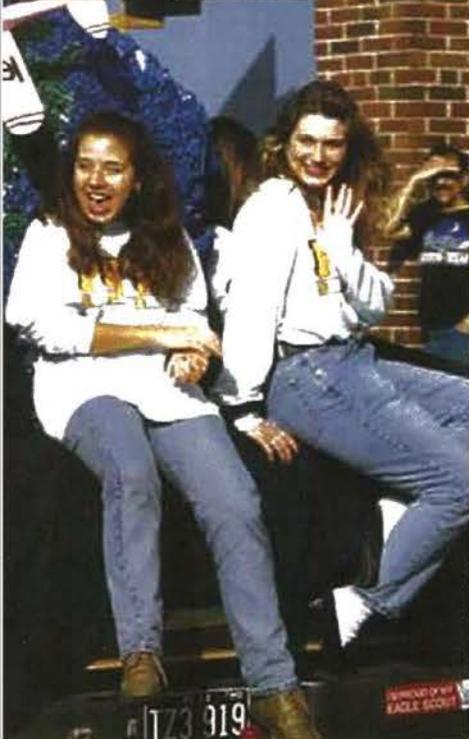
Our centennial theme has been “100 years of transforming lives” and what better goal is there than that? Indeed, the inspiring narratives that I have heard from students past and present certainly reflect the fact that many such transformations have taken place.

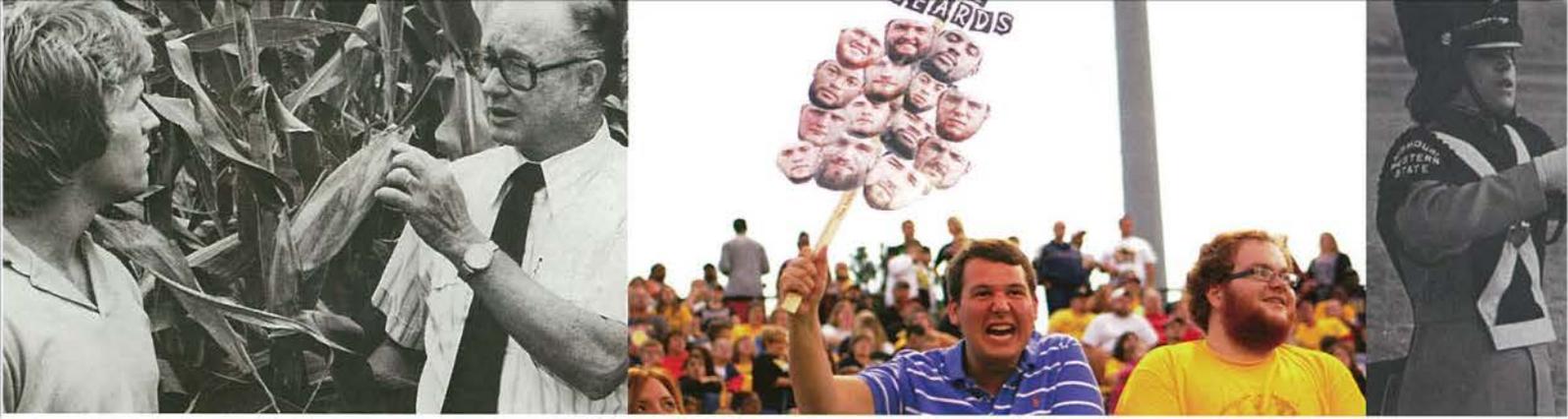
Second, our Griffon Yearbook is one of the shining stars of this university. I am fortunate to receive a copy of it every year “hot off the press.” I have been very pleased with what we have produced in my seven years here--and beyond. I am not alone in my admiration of the Griffon Yearbook as it has, not surprisingly, won numerous significant honors over the years.

Please enjoy the 2015 Centennial Griffon Yearbook. Please share in 100 years of Griffon pride.

Robert A. Vartabedian, Ph.D.  
President







The 2014-2015 year was a great time to be a Griffon.

Everyone says that 100 years will go faster than you think, and for many Griffons this especially rings true. In 2015, we celebrated the 100-year anniversary of our beloved school and all of the traditions that we've made along the way. From the first time we sang the Alma Mater to walking over the griffon seal after graduation, Missouri Western State University leaves a lasting impression, however long our time here.

Here at The Griffon, we've done our best to bring the old and new together in this special Centennial Edition of the yearbook. We've updated our designs for the spreads to be more modern and featured stories that highlighted some of the parts of Missouri Western that we all have come to love. Inside you'll find many colorful photos featuring iconic places and faces, and on select pages you'll see our Aurasma icon, denoting an accompanying video element.

While we've taken strides to modernize the yearbook, we've also made it a point to not forget our past. Certain elements of the book, like the fonts you'll see and older photographs and even some color inspiration, come directly from past editions of The Griffon. The very first edition came out in 1921 and has been capturing the essence of Missouri Western ever since. With such a daunting task ahead of us, the staff, editors and I set out to make this the best yearbook to date and we sincerely hope that you enjoy the 2014-2015 centennial edition of The Griffon.

Happy Birthday, Western, and here's to 100 years more!

Jodi Stamback, Editor-in-Chief



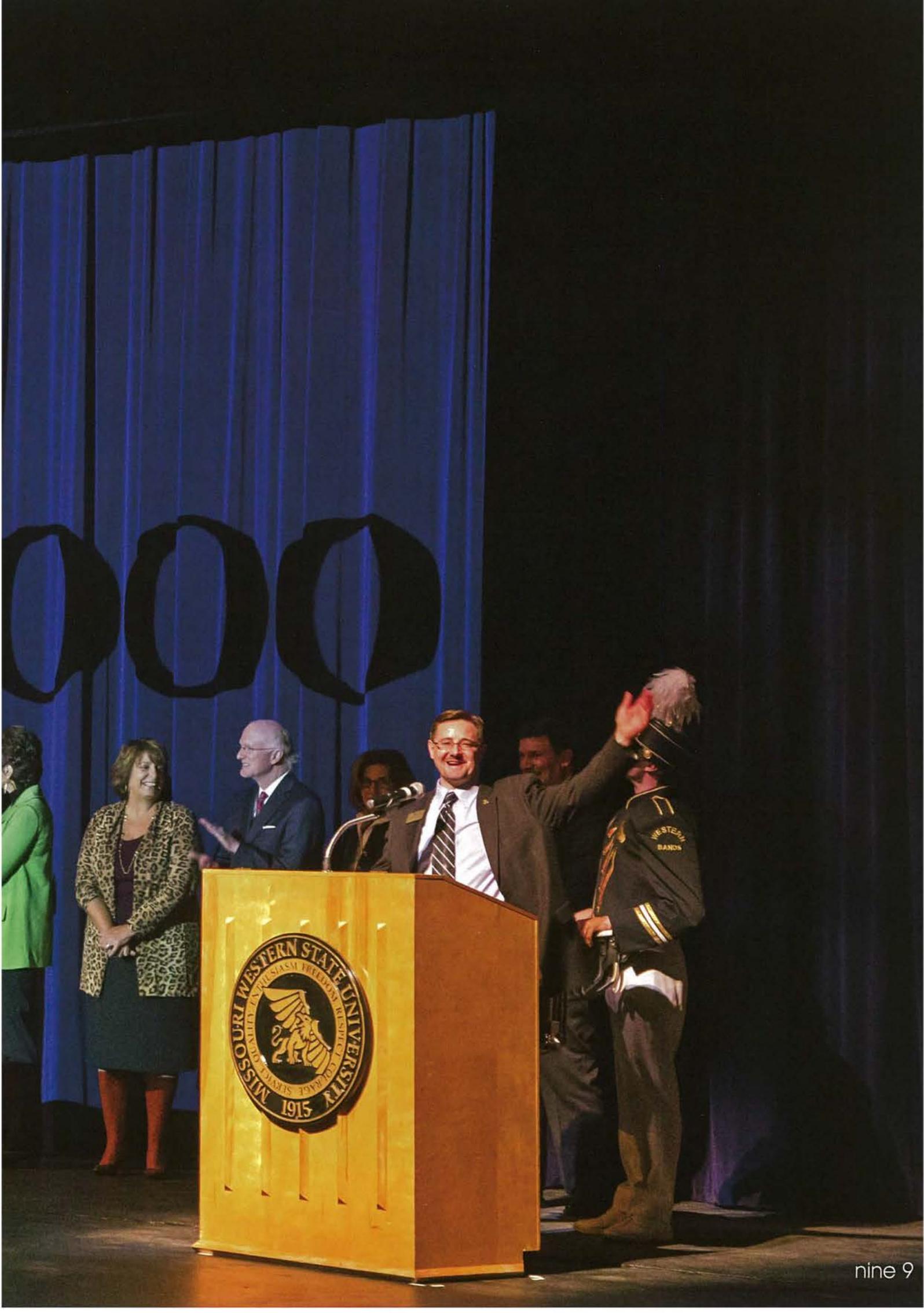
Vice President for University Advancement Jerry Pickman announces a \$16.8 million total in donations to the university at the Centennial Capital Campaign Kick-off. The university received its largest donation in its history of \$10 million from an anonymous donor.

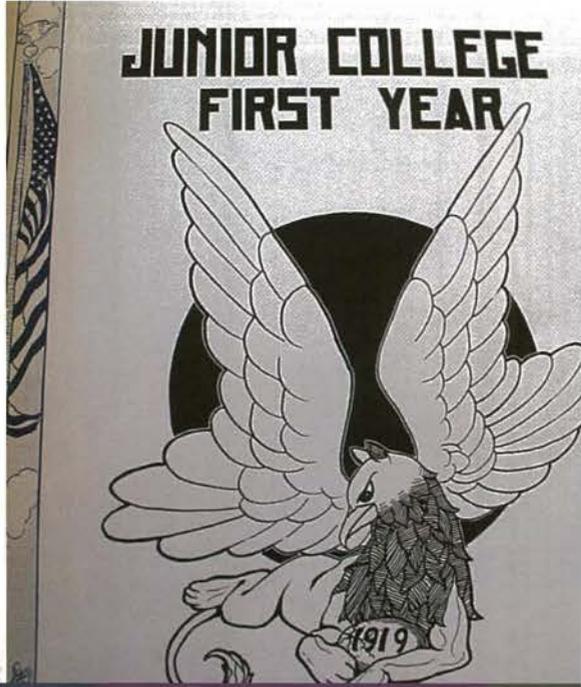
[ Photo: Jeni Swope ]



\$16,800,000

CENTENNIAL





# 1915

# 1917-18

# 1919

# 1921

Saint Joseph Junior College is formed. The Junior College opens on Sept. 20, 1915. The school was housed in Central High School.

The Griffon is adopted as the school mascot. The Griffon was designed by Norman Knight '18. It was a symbol of wisdom and a guardian of buried treasure.

The Junior College becomes accredited. The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools granted accreditation.

The first edition of *The Griffon* is published. Jessie Lee Meyers '21, was editor-in-chief. The Griffon was dedicated to Lt. Walter Louis Pinger and Cecil Meyers, who "sacrificed their lives in the recent war."



Junior College

Barnes, Beulah  
Barnett, Mary  
Carlisle, Mariam  
Chambers, Elna  
Cole, Katherine  
Cott, William  
Coffey, Bonnie  
Cottrell, Bonnie  
Dehler, Alma  
Deuge, Alice  
Dollahan, Mahlon  
Duncan, Margaret

Farthing, Dorothy  
Feyrl, Josephine  
Gabbert, Origne  
Gadlum, Leonard  
Graham, Jeany  
Green, Edilyn  
Hawkins, Olive  
Johnson, Alice  
Kennedy, Marcella  
Knapp, Melnice  
Linn, Audrey  
McBrath, Francis  
McIninch, George

McKendry, Fessie  
Matney, Margaret  
Mayfield, Martha  
Mayfield, Sarah  
Mercer, Elizabeth  
Moore, Reuby  
Nash, Mary  
Oxenberger, Ralph  
Pinger, Walter  
Porter, Mrs. Florence  
Raffelock, David  
Sellers, Daisy  
Senior, Earl

Stripis, Irene  
Thompson, Jeannette  
Took, Lorraine  
Wesheimer, Edith  
Hesnik, Tobias  
Brown, Leo  
Barby, Ada  
Tissbridge, Mrs. C. J.  
Carter, Leolan  
Datman, Mrs. Lou  
Van Deusen, Mrs. Edith  
Ferguson, Zoe





## 1924

The first issue of the junior college newspaper is published. The paper was called *The Specator*. It later changed its name to *Griffon News* in 1930.

## 1925

The Junior College moves to its own building at 14th and Olive. The building was later remodeled into apartments.

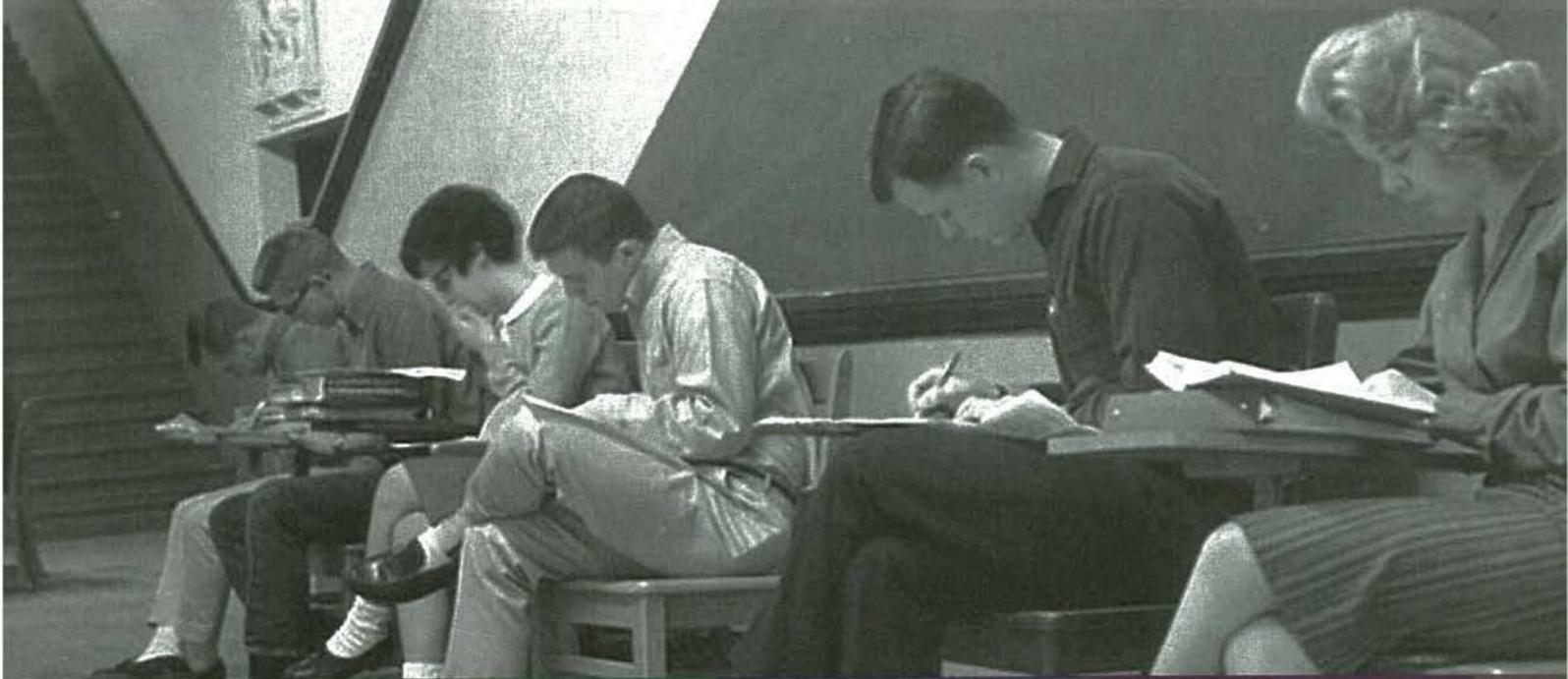
## 1926

The Omega Tau Sorority is formed. Omega Tau was the first Greek letter sorority on campus.

## 1933

The Junior College moves into the former Robidoux School at 10th and Edmond. The new location earns the nickname "Concrete Campus."





## 1945

Enrollment numbers explode as veterans return to school. Enrollment grew from 154 in 1944 to 620 in 1946.

## 1954

The Junior college desegregates. Five black students enrolled for the summer session.

## 1954

The Junior College's first Homecoming Parade is held in downtown St. Joseph. The Homecoming Parade later began at East Hills Shopping Center in 1969.

## 1965

The Missouri Western Junior College District is approved by voters, and the college's name is changed to Missouri Western Junior College. The college was able to receive funding from nearby counties.





# 1967

Missouri Western Junior College is renamed Missouri Western College. The renaming was one of President M.O. Looney's first acts.

# 1967

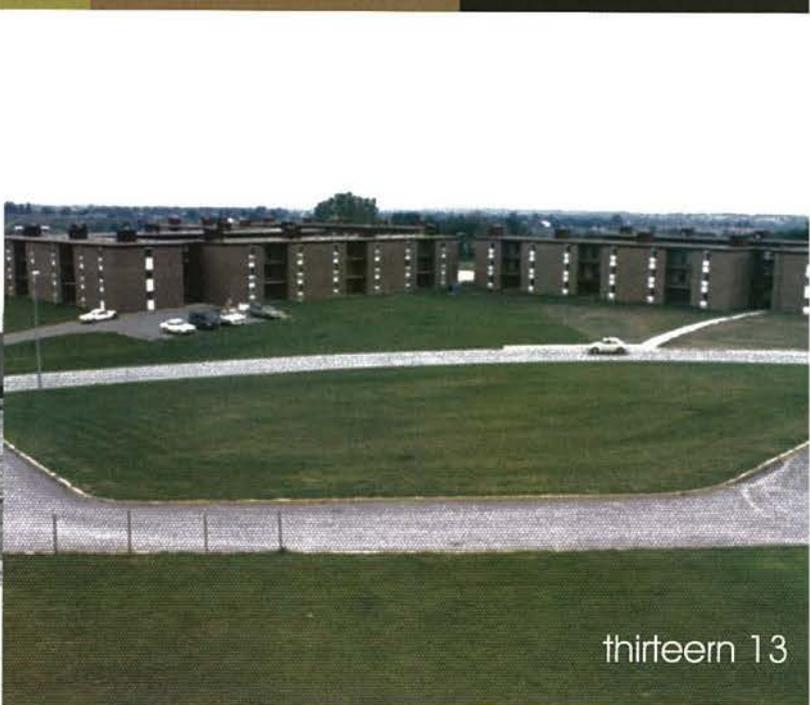
A groundbreaking ceremony is held on Aug. 22, for a new campus on Frederick Blvd. The new location stretched across 390 acres.

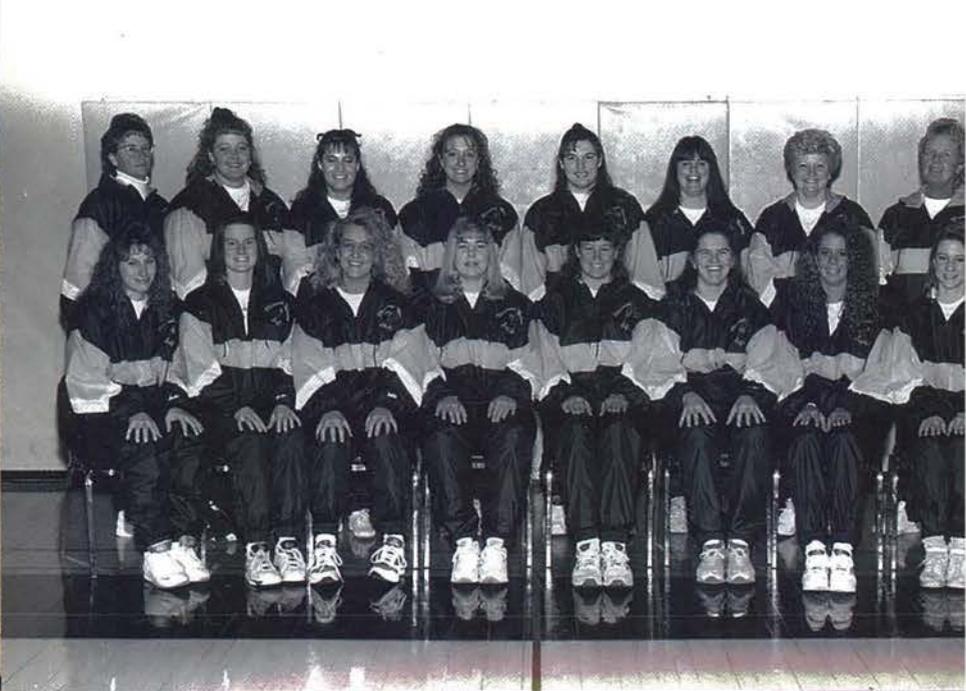
# 1968

Missouri Western becomes a four-year college on Oct. 22. The college opened as a four-year institute the following year.

# 1971

The first residence halls open. They were known as the 100s, 200s and 400s until 1997, when they were renamed Logan, Beshears and Juda Hall.





## 1973

The Griffon and Griffon News begin using the name "Missouri Western State College." No official documentation was found to substantiate the name change.

## 1975

Women's intercollegiate sports begin. Basketball and volleyball began in the fall with Rhesa Sumrell as the coach.

## 1979

Spratt Memorial Stadium is built and used for the Spring Commencement ceremony. The stadium is named after Elliot C. Spratt.

## 1982

Missouri Western's softball team wins the national championship. Rhesa Sumrell was the team's coach.



14 fourteen





## 1983

Dr. Janet Murphy becomes president. She was the first female college president in Missouri.

## 1985

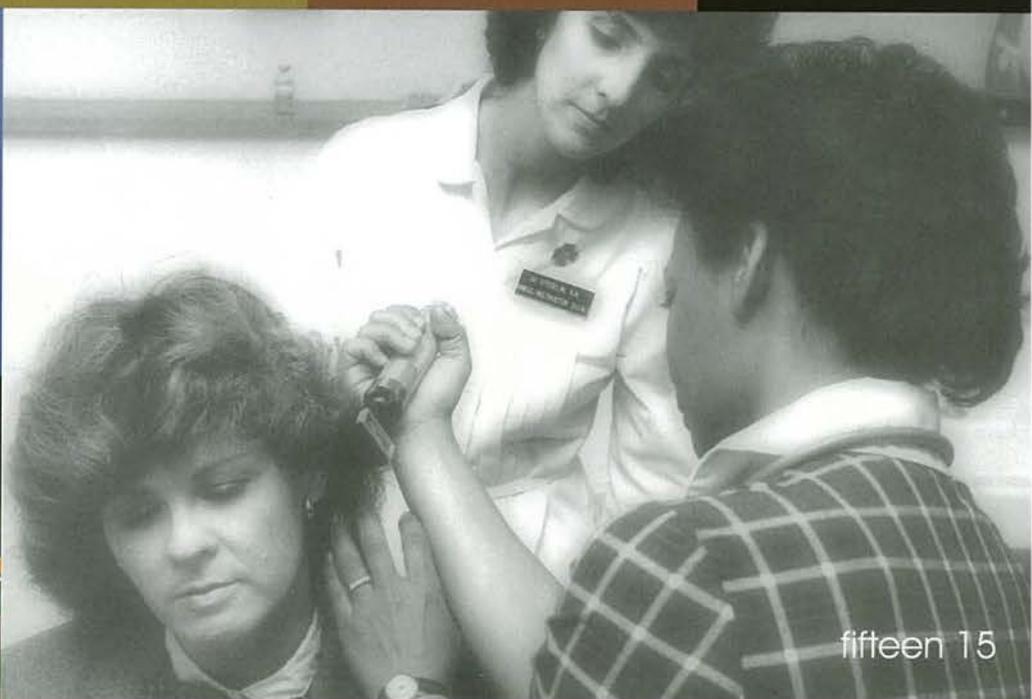
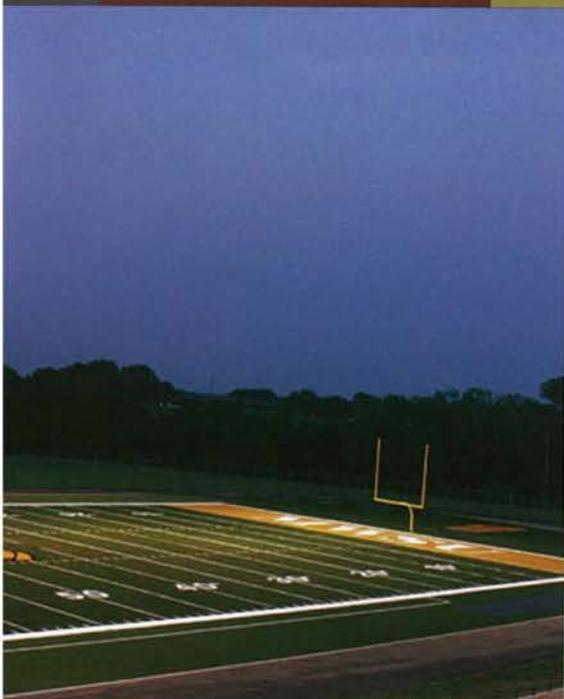
The first television class is offered. The class was Introduction to Data Processing.

## 1986

The four-year nursing degree program begins. Twenty students were accepted into the program during the fall.

## 1989

Missouri Western joins the Missouri Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) athletic conference. Western had been in both the NAIA and NCAA.





## 1993

The first Convocation on Critical Issues is held.

The event featured Arthur J. Schlesinger Jr. who spoke on "The Disuniting America."

## 1996

The Griffon Edge orientation program begins.

Approximately 500 new students attended the one-credit hour, two-day orientation course.

## 1997

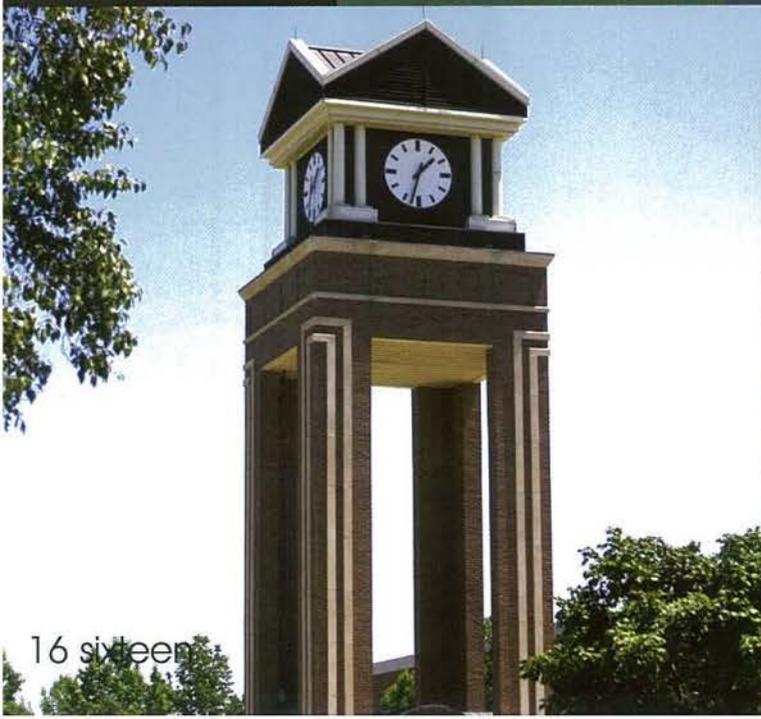
The Glenn E. Marion Memorial Clock Tower is built in the center of campus.

Marion, a long-time engineering professor, was credited with much of the campus' beautiful landscaping.

## 1995

Missouri Western earns university designation and becomes Missouri Western State University on Aug. 28.

A celebration was held unveiling a new gravel "MWSU," along with an Academic Convocation.





## 2007

The university offers its own graduate programs. Two Master of Applied Science degrees were offered in the fall.

## 2008

Dr. Robert A. Vartabedian begins his term as president on July 1. He is Missouri Western's fifth president.

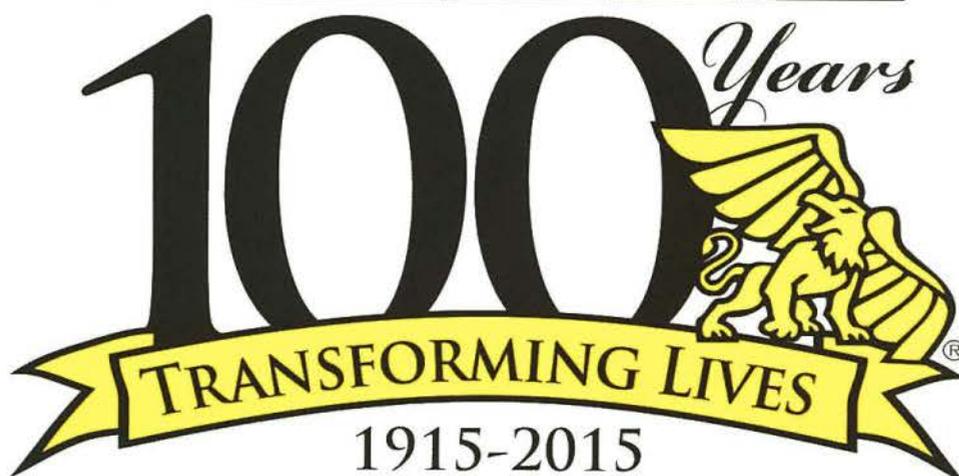
## 2013

The Walter Cronkite Memorial is dedicated in Spratt Hall atrium. The Cronkite Memorial has been visited by thousands of fans from around the world.

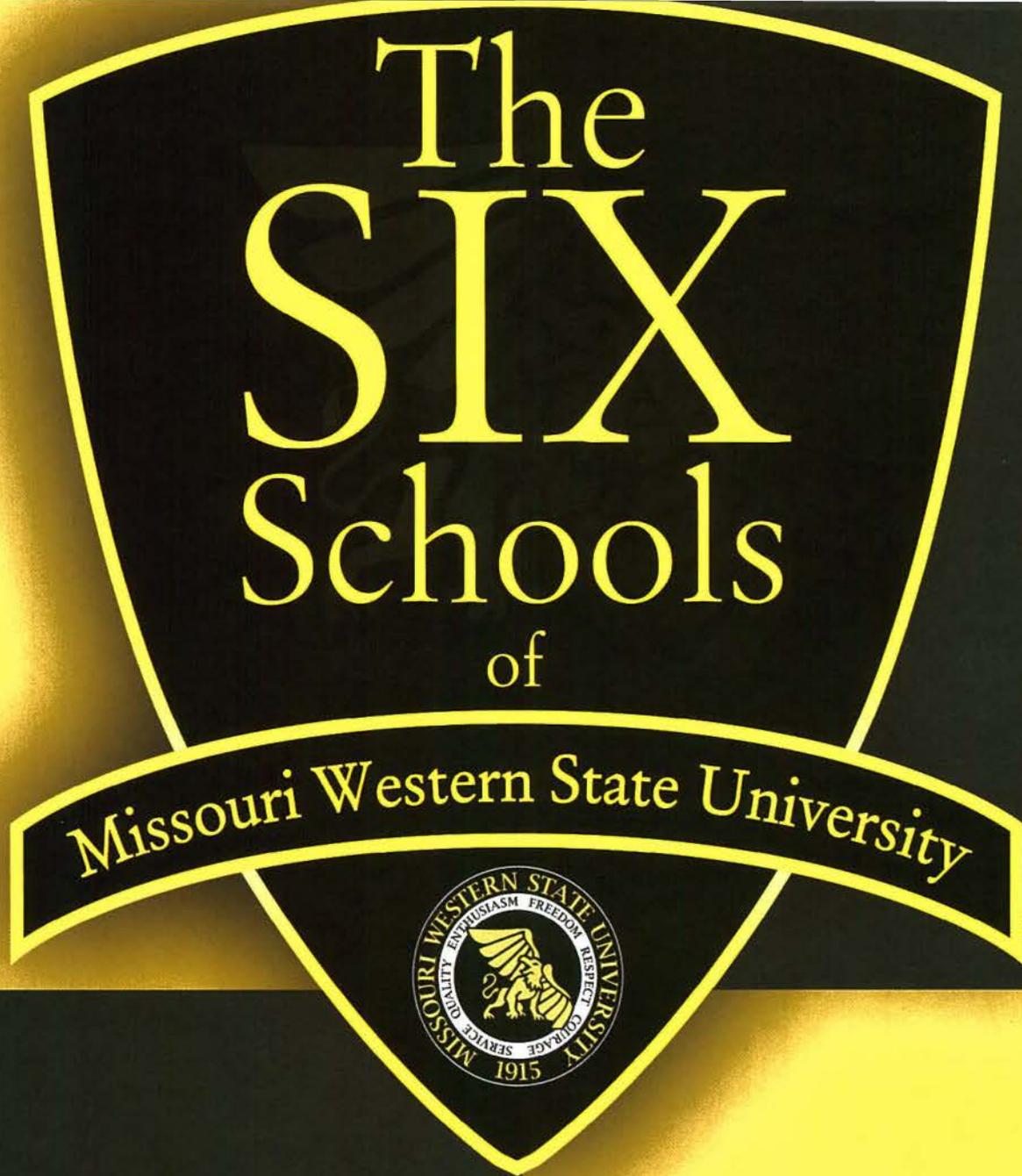
## 2015

Missouri Western celebrates its 100th anniversary. Several centennial celebrations were held on campus throughout the year.

MISSOURI WESTERN  
STATE UNIVERSITY



Research: Diane Holtz  
Photos: Submitted  
Design: Jessika Eidson



The last 100 years has brought many changes to the Missouri Western State University campus, but it has held onto six core values since it's humble beginnings.

The student body at Western strives for quality, enthusiasm, freedom, respect, courage and service in everything it does. Holding onto these vision and values has allowed Western to create Six Schools that empower the minds and efforts of the students who embrace opportunity and value education.

# Craig School of Business

The Craig School of Business is a school of Missouri Western State University that provides education and opportunities to students pursuing a career within the business world.

The business school began in 2008 when Missouri Western's giving record was broken by a \$5.5 million pledge. This generous donation came from Steven L. Craig the owner of his own realty group located in California. With the help of Craig, Missouri Western was able to establish the CSB.

Craig had a large part not only in the creation of the school, but also provided with a means to grow beyond the local area. Partnering with the CSB and the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory (RMCF) franchise, Craig cultivated the business college as an entrepreneurship-focused school.

A year after it's creation, the CSB began offering an applied entrepreneurship course for business students. Throughout the course, students examined the strategy behind owning and operating a RMCF store, then created their own plan for a similar store. The local RMCF store was used to train students while they prepared their own methods.

At the end of the semester, a panel of entrepreneurs including Craig voted on the each plan and gave an incredible award to the winner. The graduating student who created the best strategy was awarded the opportunity to run his own RMCF store. Financially backed by Craig, the winner would be able to purchase their store, so long as they repaid Craig within five years and give a portion of their profits back to CSB.

Over the next two years, six students earned stores in various locations around the country. Craig served as an

advisor for all the new storeowners, and was repaid by many of them for his support.

In 2012, the CSB expanded its opportunities by awarding double the amount of stores, awarding stores from the Aspen Leaf Yogurt and offering the applied entrepreneurship course in both the fall and spring. The program also opened its doors to all CSB graduates regardless of their graduation year and determined the storeowners would now be backed by the RMCF instead of Craig.

During 2013, the CSB expanded even further

after receiving a grant for \$207,000 from the Initiative for Competitive Inner City- Kansas City. This created a fund for business students wanting to start franchises in the urban core of Kansas City. Partnerships with other franchises also gave the CSB students an expanded horizon of opportunity following graduation.

Although Craig was no longer backing the store winners, he maintained a position of influence on the CSB. In 2013, Craig's original gift increased by \$2.2 million. After selling the Woodburn Company Stores from which the initial gift came from through shares of ownership, Craig's gift increased to over \$7.7 million.

The CSB took another big step in 2013 when it created the Center for Entrepreneurship. The center was established to mentor and train entrepreneurs. The Center for Entrepreneurship also provided support for its students by connecting them to programs and resources necessary to become a successful business owner.

Following what was probably the biggest year to date for the CSB, four new storeowners were announced and broke the record for winners within a semester. In 2014, the CSB and Craig have helped to shape entrepreneurs who are currently operating 18 stores spread across 13 states.



Dr. Mike Lane, Dean C.S.B.

# School of Fine Arts

Throughout the years, Missouri Western has given students the opportunity to study, create and enjoy art. However, when Dr. Robert Vartabedian came to Missouri Western in 2008, he desired to push the art department to a new standard and strengthen ties within the local art community.

In 2013, the school of Fine Arts was established and split into three departments of study. These departments gave each art student a more precise learning experience and produced art that could be enjoyed by students, faculty and the community.

The department of art gave students the chance to study and create visual art. A variety of majors and minors were offered all the way from graphic design to art therapy. Several courses gave students opportunities to work in a studio and display their creations in the gallery located in Potter Hall.

The department of art hosted several events throughout the year in an effort to reach out to the community. These included art sales, exhibits from both faculty and students and a day for local high school students to come to Missouri Western for a chance to learn and compete.

The department of music also offered a wide range

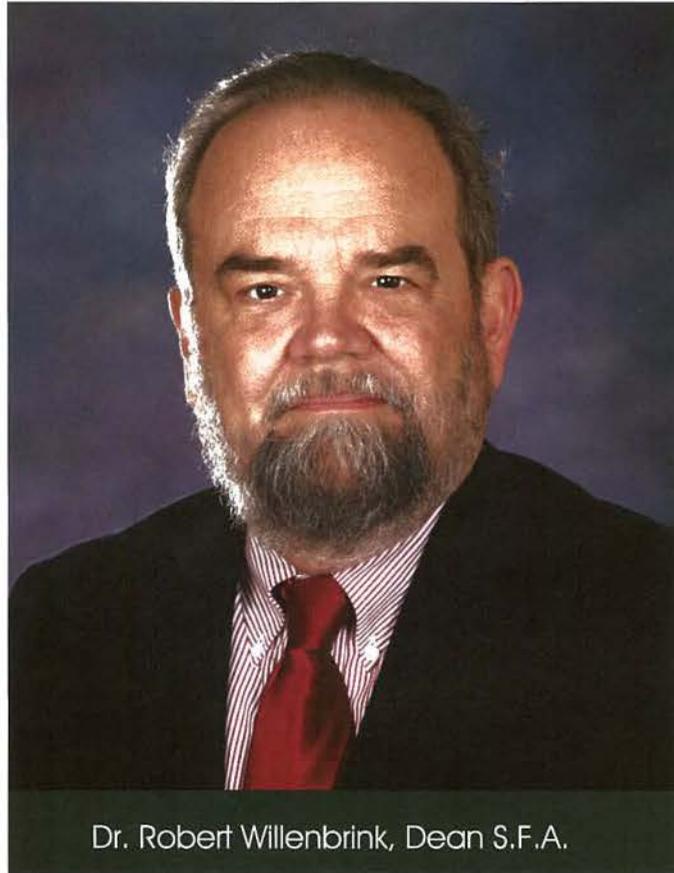
of majors and minors. Along with studies in musical instruments and voice, students were able to delve into musical business, technology and education.

Because several courses focused on performance, the music students were able to demonstrate their knowledge and skills several times throughout the school year. These performances included several instrumental and vocal ensembles, theatre and opera, marching bands and many others musical productions.

The department of theatre, cinema and dance also focused on performance and creation. From dance to film, the department offered courses that gave students practical experience in their field of study and prepared them for the performing art industry.

The department of theatre, cinema and dance hosted several events throughout the year that would draw the community to Missouri Western. Students alongside their professors produced and performed several film festivals, musicals and plays to expand the performing arts department to the community.

With each department working together under the leadership of Dr. Robert Willenbrink, Missouri Western's schools of Fine Arts was able train its artists and permeate the art community.



Dr. Robert Willenbrink, Dean S.F.A.

## Graduate Studies

When Missouri Western announced its university designation in 2005, each department began planning for graduate programs they could offer their students.

Missouri Western created the Professional Master's degrees, each with an emphasis on applied

learning. Along with the traditional advanced disciplinary knowledge of masters programs, the new graduate programs would provide training in business fundamentals, project management and communications.

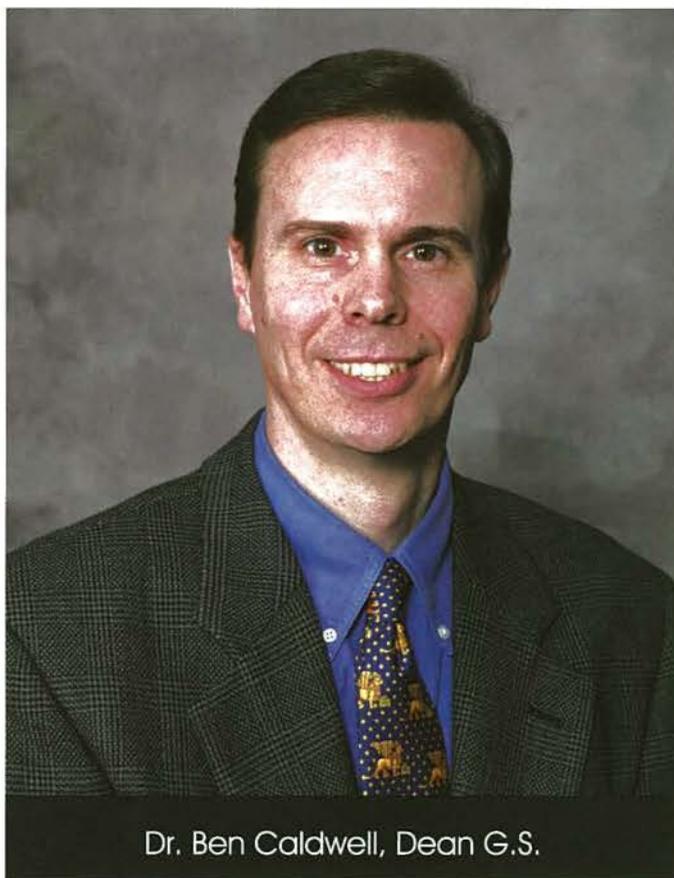
In January of 2007, the graduate school had its

first degrees approved by the Coordinating Board of Higher Education. Students could now obtain a master's of applied science with options in chemistry, human factors and usability testing and information technology management.

During that year's spring commencement, Missouri Western presented its first graduate certificate to Deb Schwebach. While others had earned their certificate in teaching of writing from Northwest Missouri State University through the Prairie Lands Writing Project, Schwebach was the first to receive her certificate from Missouri Western.

In 2008, the graduate school added a master's of applied science in assessment with options in learning improvement and writing. The next fall programs in written communications with options in writing studies and technical communication were added. At this point the school had 70 students enrolled in its various programs.

After 12 students received their master's degree during the university's first "Hooping Ceremony" in 2009, the graduate program grew rapidly within the next two years. Throughout 2010 and 2011, seven new programs were added, and the university became a full member of the National Council of Graduate Schools.



Dr. Ben Caldwell, Dean G.S.

In 2012, a certificate in professional skills and a master's of applied science in sport and fitness were approved for the graduate school. This management degree brought three graduate assistants for the athletics department, particularly in both men's and women's basketball and women's soccer.

Two years later the graduate program continued to add programs for students pursuing their master's degrees. The most recent additions were the option of industrial life sciences in a master's of applied science, a master's of information management and a master's of science in nursing with a nurse educator option and a nurse

educator graduate certificate.

# College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

In 1968, the dean of academic affairs, Dr. Nolen Morrison, helped organize the divisions that are now known as Missouri Western's Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) and Professional Studies.

Under the guidance of Morrison, Dr. Robert Scott was selected as dean of the division of liberal arts and sciences that May. Scott retired in 1982 to later become dean of the continuing education department. Dr. Elisabeth Latosi-Sawin acted as the LAS dean until William Nunez took on the duties in 1983.

From 1968 until 1984, Dr. Charles Coyne was the dean of education and applied sciences, which included the health, physical education and recreation and psychology departments. During the majority of this time, Steve Capelli acted as dean of the career programs division, which included all vocational and technical programs. In 1984, Capelli left, leaving Coyne to merge the two divisions into the professional studies division.

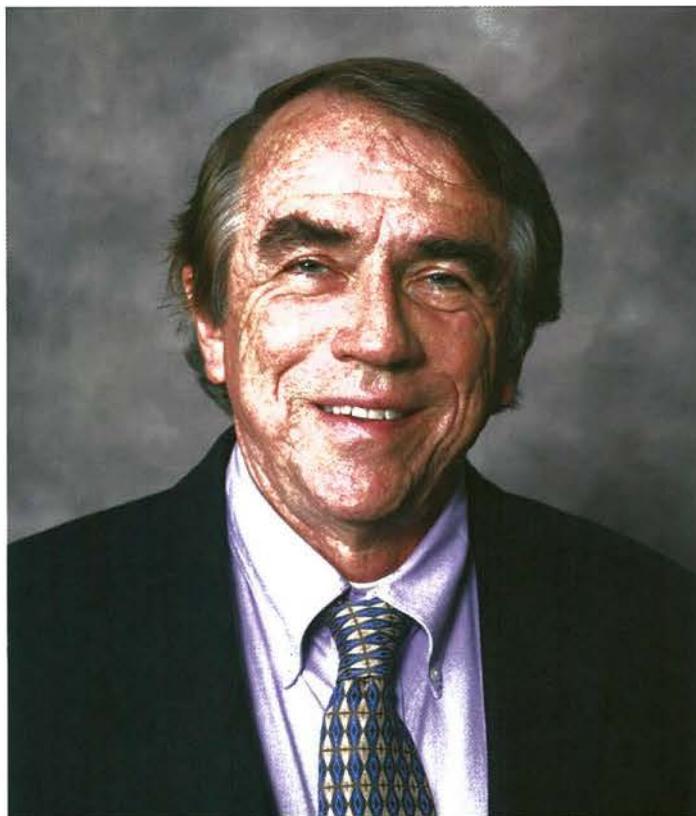
The following year, the first Honors Convocation for the LAS and Professional Studies was held for the divisions' students. In an effort to stress the value of

academic excellence, over 100 students were recognized for their work.

In 2002, these divisions graduated to be acknowledged as schools of Missouri Western State College. Later in 2005, the LAS and professional studies schools advanced again to become their own colleges of the new Missouri Western State University.

In 2014, the LAS college oversaw several departments including biology, chemistry, communication, journalism, computer science, mathematics, physics, economics, political science, sociology, English, modern languages, history, geography, philosophy, religion and psychology. The college promoted investigation of the nature of man and the world

around him, and aimed to provide opportunities for students that will push them to academic excellence.



Dr. Murray Nabors, Dean L.A.S.

Alongside the LAS, the College of Professional Studies focuses on knowledge and skills that would prepare students for leadership roles in future careers. The college includes the departments of criminal justice, legal studies, social work, education, engineering technology, health, physical education, recreation, military science, ROTC, nursing and allied health.

Despite several changes in leadership, both the LAS and Professional Studies have expanded and improved to provide students with a wide variety of fields to study.

## College of Professional Studies

Missouri Western's College of Professional Studies has been helping direct and train student's pursuing a life professional fields and graduate studies since the late 1960s.

When the four-year programs were being developed three divisions were formed for the College of Professional Studies. The division of education and psychology, the division of applied sciences and technology and the division of liberal studies and sciences all offered students the chance to develop as professionals in their specific field of choice.

In 1983 the divisions were split between Dr. Charles



Dr. Kathleen O'Connor, Dean C.P.S.

Coyne, who oversaw education and applied sciences, and Steve Capelli who oversaw the career programs of the college. When Capelli left the following year, Coyne took the responsibility of supervising all divisions as dean of professional studies.

In recent years, the College of Professional Studies is working with students through classroom and professional practice environments to provide knowledge, skills and leadership development. Students also have the opportunities to interact with professionals in

Partnerships and contribute to society through services while using technology and learning ethical problem solving.

Professional Studies offers programs in various legal studies, engineering technology, various health and recreation studies, military science, ROTC and nursing

studies. Graduates of the college leave the program ready to fill essential leadership positions in their field of choice and utilize their learned skills in the professional world.

# Western Institute

The Western Institute is a part of Missouri Western that expands education beyond the average college student and into the local communities.

Known as the continuing education department when it started in 1968, this community-minded office began making a noticeable improvement under the leadership of Dr. Ed Gorsky in 1986. Working in a small office located in Eder, Gorsky and his secretary began the expansion of the continuing education classes.

In 1986 the department saw 1,000 students enrolled in the new classes offered. In order to reach more people, Gorsky began offering weekend, evening and non-credit classes.

The next year, Gorsky expanded the department's services even further when he offered courses to a nearby high school in Cameron, Missouri. These students were able to enroll in three dual credit classes and five non-credit classes.

During 1987, the continuing education department also began the Community Arts Program that offered programs classes in art, music and drama. By the end of the year, the department had doubled its enrollment numbers for 97 classes.

Over the next two years, the department added intersession classes and classes to the summer

sessions. With 3000 students and 130 classes, the continuing education department had fulfilled its goal of expanding further into the community and began hosting conferences.



Dr. Gordon Mapley, Dean W.I.

In 2004, the department changed its name to the Western Institute when Dr. Chris Shove replaced Gorsky. Shove continued the expansion of the department, and by the time Dr. Gordon Mapley became the new dean, the program was reaching 28 schools and 800 students in dual credit courses alone.

Throughout its history the Western Institute has continued to grow and reach many high school students and community members throughout the area.

[ Story: Jessie Eidson ]  
[ Photos: Submitted ]  
[ Design: Bryant Scott ]  
[ Info: Diane Holtz ]



# WESTERN'S HISTORY

## Frances Flanagan reflects on her time at Missouri Western as a historian and a teacher

[ Story & Design: Jeni Swope ]  
[ Photo: Apple Blossom Parade ]

From its conception as a junior college, to its university status today, Missouri Western has a storied history of growth and advancement, and one particular local woman has lived through it all.

In 1915 the St. Joseph Junior College opened its doors, and Frances Flanagan, a Missouri Western alumni and former professor, as well as author of "Missouri Western State College: a history 1915-1983" was born.

She began studying to be a teacher at the St. Joseph Junior College in 1933, in the midst of the Great Depression. Flanagan felt fortunate for the opportunity, as it was one that not many women had in the 1930s.

After completing her degree, she started her teaching career at a local elementary school. Years later, Flanagan earned her master's degree and returned to the Junior College as a professor of English, a role that she naturally fell into.

"I think it's kind of in my blood," Flanagan said. "I think I might have been a teacher under any circumstances."

As Flanagan's career progressed, so did the school, as it advanced from a junior college, to a four-year institution, to a state college and now to a university.

"I think it's rather remarkable that it began as a junior college, and it has had its own ladder of

advancement from a junior college to a university, step by step by step," Flanagan said. "I think one reason it could do it successfully is because we had good teachers to begin with."

Flanagan would touch many lives during her years as a professor. She took her job very seriously, setting high expectations and pushing her students to reach for them.

Ken Rosenauer, a former student of Flanagan's who would later return to Missouri Western as a professor himself, found Flanagan to be an influential part of his college education. He recalls her as a professor who truly invested herself in her students.

"If parents look to their children to be their legacy, it's probably very true that Dr. Flanagan looked to her students to be her legacy," Rosenauer said. "From my perspective, that's a very high compliment."

After an illustrious 44-year career as an educator, Flanagan retired in 1980. Shortly after, she was approached by then Missouri Western president M.O. Looney with the request that she document the history of Missouri Western State College into a book.

"I had just retired, and I thought I'd teach a couple of classes," Flanagan said. "And just a day or two before the fall semester was to begin, Dr. Looney called me into his office and said he wanted me to write a history."



Flanagan waves as the Grand Marshall in the Apple Blossom Parade. The former professor has been recognized for many things such as her Lifetime Achievement Award by the YWCA.

The book was to cover the entire lifespan of the college; from its start as an extension of Central High School through its transition to a new campus in the late 1960s. Flanagan was given a very short time span to cover the college's 68 years of life.

"We had nine months to do the book, from my being asked, to it being in book form," Flanagan said. "It was supposed to be ready for Dr. Looney's retirement dinner, and it was."

In addition to writing, Flanagan's passions also lie in photography and traveling, and she often ties the two together. Over the years, Flanagan has visited many different countries across the world, taking snapshots along the way. With the help of Max Schlesinger, former director of the Instructional Media Center at Missouri Western, Flanagan plans to release a book featuring her travel photography in the near future.

Flanagan has also been active in the St. Joseph community. She is a current member of the St. Joseph Women's Press Club, an elite club for local women authors. She has spoke at many events and banquets on her experience as an educator within the community.

Fellow St. Joseph Women's Press Club member and resident of the Ambassadors of Missouri Western Mary Shuman finds Flanagan to be humble and genuinely interested in others. Shuman believes her sharp approach makes Flanagan's speeches engaging and relatable.

"She spoke at the Ambassador's Luncheon leading up to the Night at the Ritz, and she was very witty," Shuman said. "We thoroughly enjoyed her."

Recognition of the accomplishments of Flanagan's life extends beyond the university. Last year the Apple Blossom Parade honored her as their grand marshal.

Rosenauer, who was involved in the grand marshal selection process, enjoyed seeing Flanagan in the spotlight.

"She not only came out and was involved, but she was engaged," Rosenauer said. "She was waving 'the queen wave' in her own special car with the grand marshal sign."

Flanagan's 100-year achievements all reflect her devotion to writing, teaching and the college. Missouri Western is ingrained in her, she believes. Likewise, her impact is ingrained in the university.

Flanagan has emphasized that the university could not be where it is today without having had good teachers. Though she is too humble to include herself in that influential list of teachers, she undoubtedly belongs on it.

"I know she's one of those who would think that there's a lot of fuss being made over nothing if people are trying to honor her," Rosenauer said. "But she deserves every bit of it and more."



# FROM THEN TO NOW:

Diane Holtz's book picks up  
where Flanagan's story left off

In this centennial year of Missouri Western the university's history is reflected upon and appreciated. Diane Holtz has been a huge part of the centennial celebration and documenting Western's history.

Holtz grew up in Fort Madison, Iowa. After moving around Iowa, Holtz and her family settled in Saint Joseph, Missouri in 1997. She obtained a degree in liberal arts from the University of Iowa, while her three sons obtained their degrees from Missouri Western.

An administrative assistant position opened up at Western in 2001 and Holtz took the position. Holtz's position is now in the Office of Public Relations and Marketing where she helps in marketing and alumni organizations and has been the Missouri Western Magazine Editor since 2003. On top of her duties Holtz took on the task of documenting Western's history from 1983-2015.

In 1982, former president Dr. Looney asked English professor Frances Flanagan, who had just retired, to write Western's history from 1915-1983. Around 2008 the Library director, Julia Snyder, and Holtz discussed an updated version of Western's history. Snyder applied for funding to digitize older copies of the yearbook and newspaper. In her request Snyder said updating the history of Western would be easier if these documents were digitized. The committee granted her request and asked Snyder to write the second edition of Western's history.

In 2010 it was decided that Holtz would write the book and take it through 2015 since it is the college's centennial year.

"I sort of became the unofficial historian just because of my role as the magazine editor," Holtz said.

Holtz had already done some research on Western's history and when she started working on the book her research catapulted.

Holtz has spent endless hours reading every Griffon yearbook and newspaper from 1983 on. She also read all of the Board of Governor reports and went through all the Western files in the Saint Joseph Public Library. She has been amazed at how much has happened in the

last 25 years. There was sometimes a challenge finding information because files had been lost or destroyed over the years.

"The most fun part for me was when I found facts that didn't match, then I'd have to do more investigating to find the right ones," Holtz said.

Writing the book has made Holtz more aware of how she writes and publishes for the campus magazine because she thinks of how a historian would interpret things in the future.

One thing Holtz found interesting while researching was when the current campus opened in 1969, there was a fountain where the clock tower now stands. It was hard for her to imagine.

"When you come here and you see how things are you just sort of assume they were always like that," Holtz said.

Another bonus for Holtz was getting to interview Dr. Janet Gorman Murphy. Holtz joined Western's staff just after Dr. Murphy retired as president and felt very fortunate to have the opportunity to get to know her.

Holtz has also been a big part of planning the centennial celebrations which Western began prepping for in 2010. Along with sorting through countless photos and athletic files, Holtz has developed a massive timeline of the history of the school. Western has been using it as a major reference throughout the prepping. She said it worked out perfectly that she was working on the book and the centennial at the same time because she was able to use her research for both matters.

Holtz is producing a second book for the centennial with Mallory Murray, Autumn Sands and Kendy Jones. The book is a pictorial history book and is filled with photos that document Western's history.

[ Story & Photos: Blair Russell ]  
[ Design: Jodi Stamback ]



# Happy Birthday, Western

[ Photos: Jeni Swope ]

[ Story & Design: Jodi Stamback ]

On Friday, January 23, over 200 students dressed in semi-formal attire joined together in Fulkerson center for the Student Centennial Ball.

The centennial ball was the first student-focused event and among several others planned for the upcoming year to celebrate the 100th birthday of Missouri Western State University and was created by the student centennial committee.

Lionel Attawia, student Governor and member of the student centennial committee said that they wanted to plan a kick-off event that would bring students together to help celebrate the history of Western.

“We wanted to do something that would get a really good turn-out,” Attawia said. “...We wanted it to be classy, too.”

The idea for a ball quickly followed and the centennial committee quickly got to work planning and preparing for the event with an attendance goal of 200-300 students.

“At first we were shooting for 300 just to go over the top,” Attawia said. “That seems like a high number considering the history of attendance for these events that we put on.”

Charles Felmons, who is also a member of the centennial committee and helped plan the event, was happy with the turn-out for the ball. There were 223 students who RSVP'd the event, setting the committee well within their goal.

“We had really good numbers,” Felmons said. “Our purpose was to raise student awareness of the centennial year and to bring people together to have fun.”

Dr. Robert Vartabedian opened the ball with a welcome message to attendees to kick off the evening's festivities. Student Governor Attawia followed and remarked on Western's rich history that began in August 1915 and the many milestones between then and now.

Jordan Booth, a freshman, thought that the evening was a huge success.

“I think it's really cool to see the growth of [Western] over the last 100 years,” Booth said. “I wish that we had more events like this every month to celebrate it.”

While there doesn't appear to be another ball in the near future, the centennial year has many other events in store to help celebrate. Among them, a time capsule that will remain unopened until 2065, and networking events to name some.

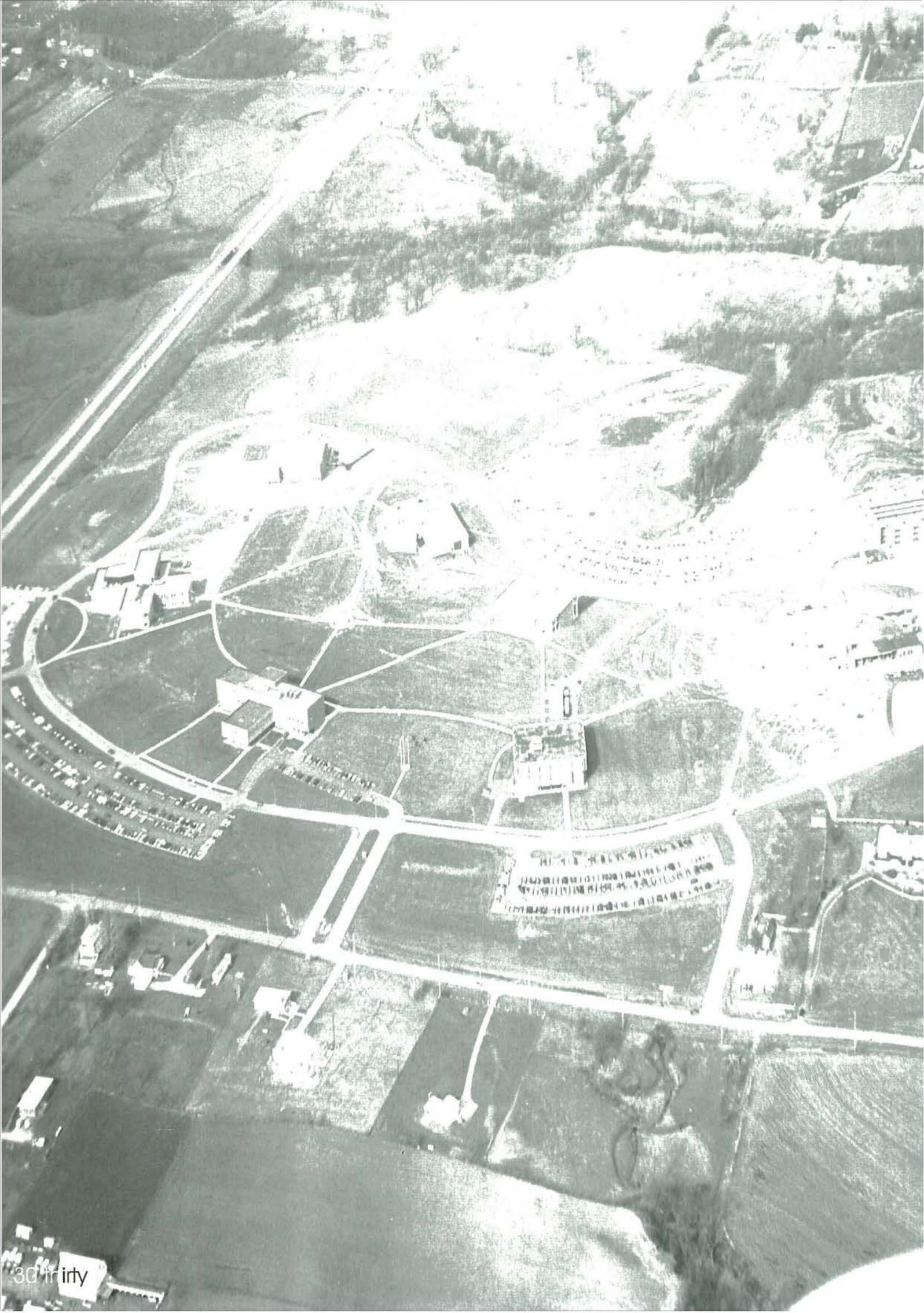
For some students like senior Shannon Burke the centennial ball and the accompanying celebrations are just a reminder of how special Western is to them, and how unique it is to graduate in such a momentous year.

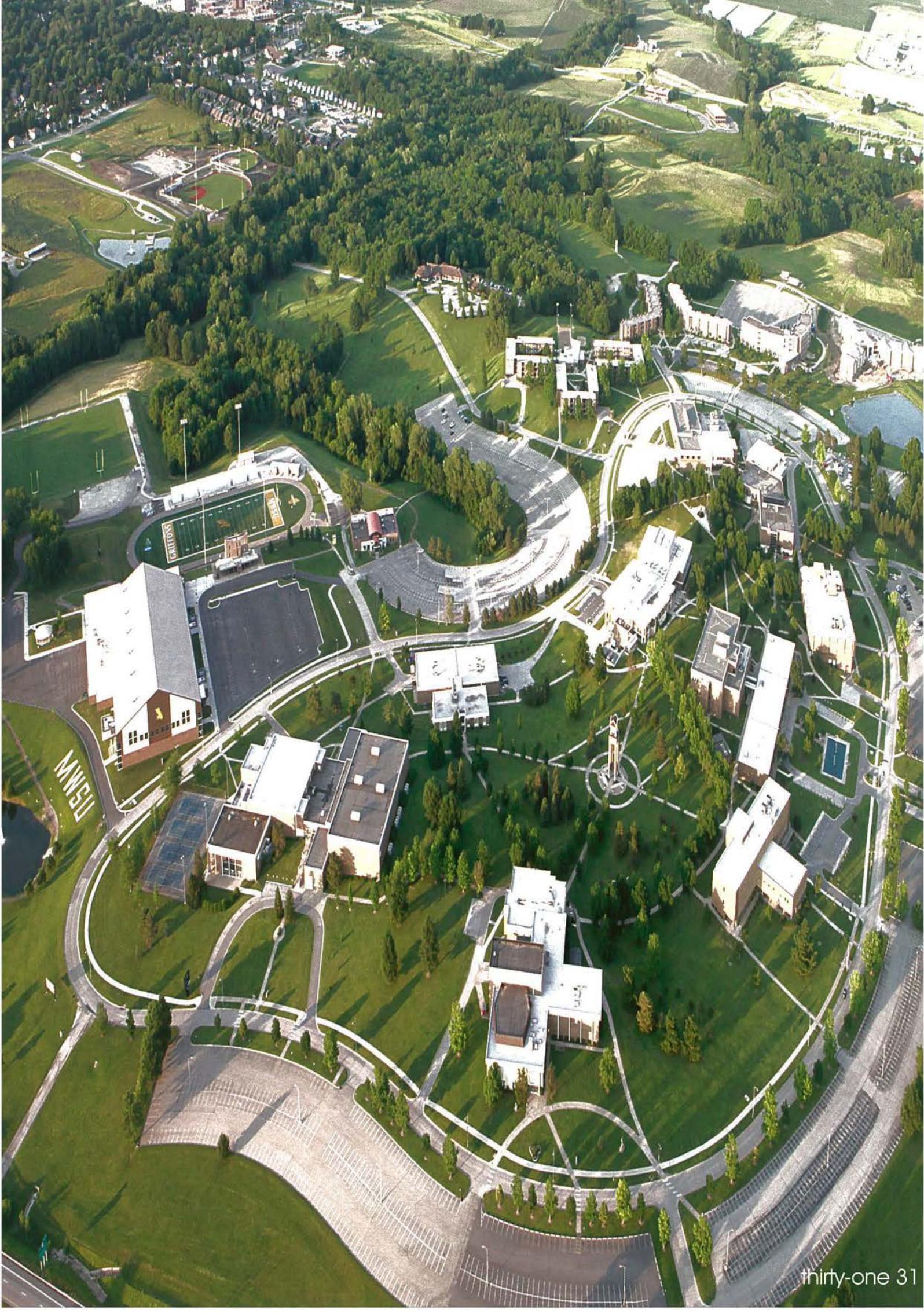
“It feels awesome to know that I will be graduating in the centennial year,” Burke said. “[My time here at] Missouri Western has been the greatest time of my life so far.”



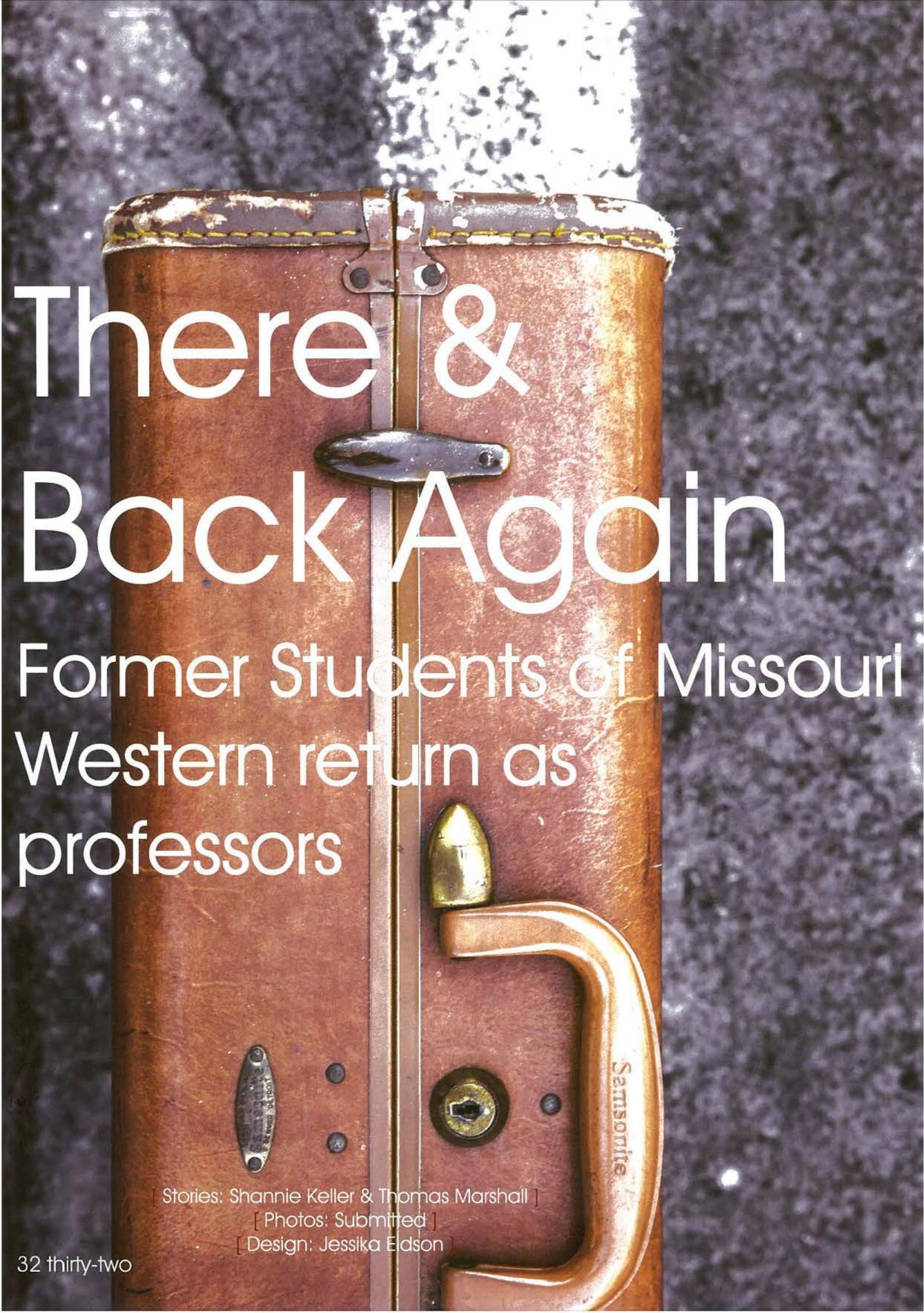
[ Above ] Students RSVP'd to an elegant, three-course meal and a dance that followed. The ball, which celebrated Missouri Western's 100 year anniversary, was attended by over 200 students.

[ Left ] Max the Griffon joins students during the festivities of the night. Many upcoming events were announced throughout the course of the evening, including the spring concert, networking opportunities and a time capsule.





NW50



# There & Back Again

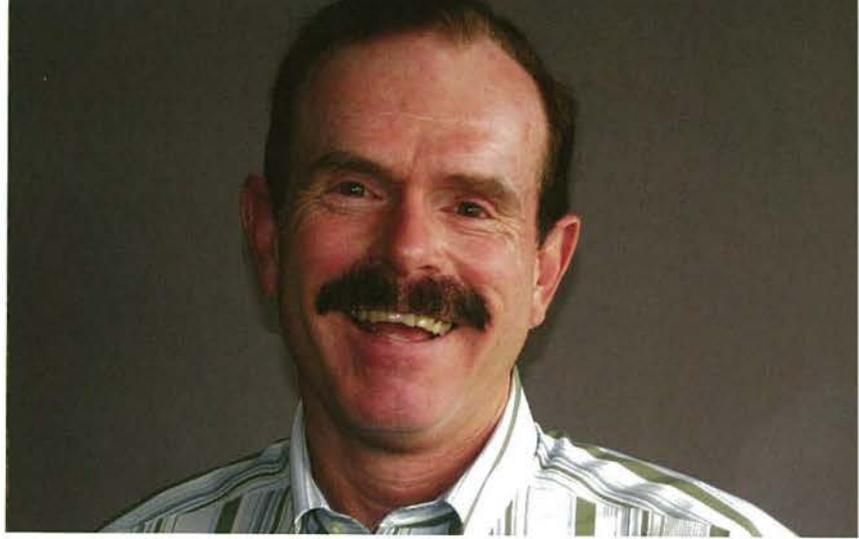
Former Students of Missouri  
Western return as  
professors

[ Stories: Shannie Keller & Thomas Marshall ]

[ Photos: Submitted ]

[ Design: Jessika Eldson ]

# From Non- Trad to Grad



Wearing cowboy boots and a suit, Bill Church is the epitome of sophisticated, country fashion. Having grown up in Amazonia and Savannah, Missouri, Church was raised around cattle and construction, and at 17, he graduated from Savannah High School.

Coming to Missouri Western State University as a student in the 1980s, Church's only intention was to take a creative writing class. However, the English faculty convinced him he had some talent and he eventually signed a major declaration form, later graduating from Western in 1989.

"The faculty here were extremely encouraging and tolerant," Church said. "It was like a home away from home."

Despite moving on to pursue degrees at other universities, he eventually came back to teach at Western as full-time faculty. With his Ph.D.

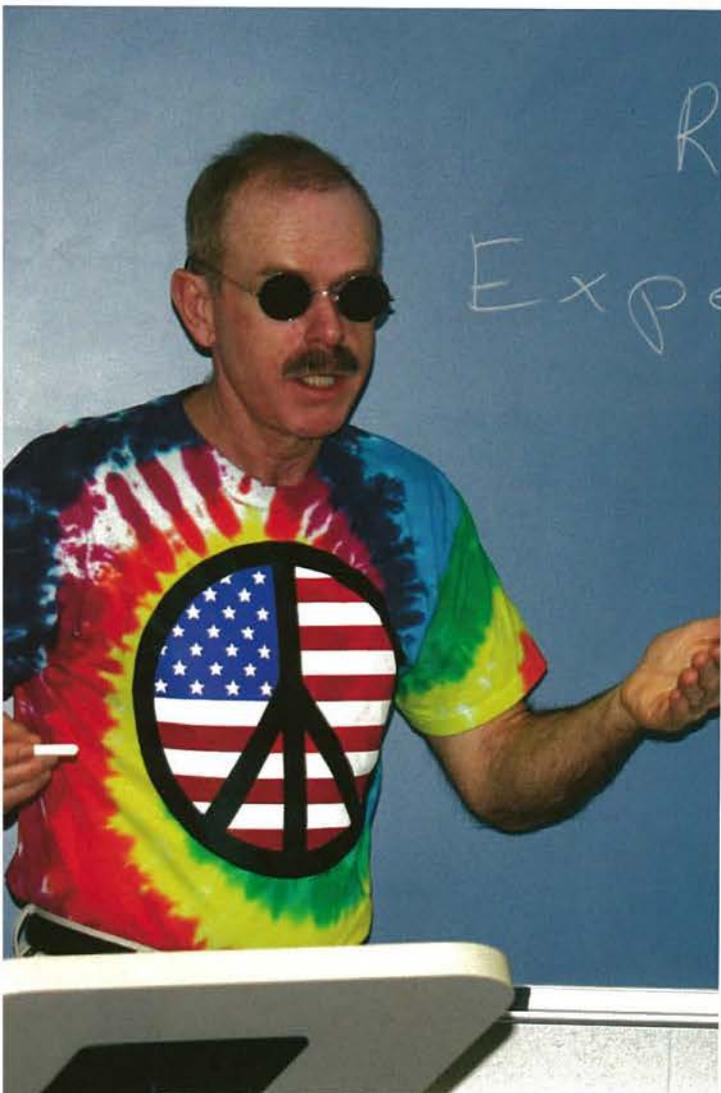
in English, he became an inspiration to many students at Western, especially in the English department.

Church is praised for his investment in Western and students by Senior Crystal Crawford, a student and advisee of Church's for two years. Church has greatly contributed to Canvas, Western's literary magazine, of whom Crawford is editor-in-chief.

Another student, senior Katy Robbins, has known Church since her second semester at Western. It was then that she changed her major from Nursing to English.

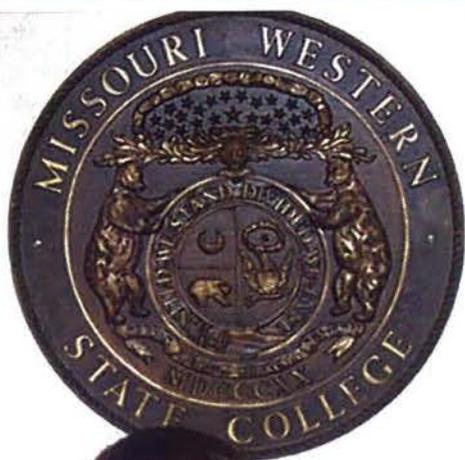
"I personally think he's freakin' brilliant," Robbins said. "And pretty much all of my friends who have taken a class with him think the same thing."

Close to retirement, Church hopes the English department continues to grow when he's gone.

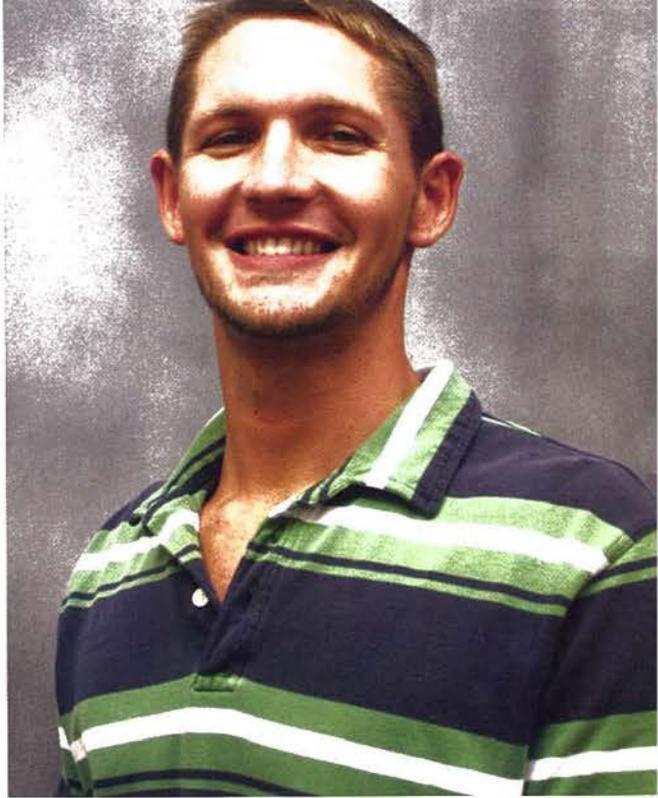


Dr. Bill Church dresses up for a class. Church has been deeply involved in the English department as both student and teacher.

# Quality Education



Dr. Aaron Gerhart stands beneath the Missouri Western State College seal. Gerhart graduated from Western in 2003.



education you're receiving until you... go to another institution as a comparison," Gerhart said.

Gerhart has attended North Central Community College, Missouri Western State University, University of Central Missouri and Capella University. Gerhart attained his Bachelor of Science in Psychology at Western in 2003, going on to pursue his Master's at the University of Central Missouri.

"When I went from Missouri Western to [UCM], I felt very prepared, more so than a lot of the other graduate students, so I was sort of sold into Missouri Western," Gerhart said.

Gerhart began teaching at Western as an adjunct in spring 2012 after being encouraged by former psychology department chair Dr. Phil Wann. Gerhart mentioned how well the psychology department gets along and how student-oriented they are.

"Having been at a couple of other institutions, I really am a firm believer in the quality of education that we produce," Gerhart said.

Western psychology professor Aron Gerhart praises Western's student-oriented atmosphere. Growing up in Missouri, he attended multiple places of higher education including Western.

"I don't really think you understand the quality of



# Knowing Your Passion

Knowing your passion is essential to having a happy, fulfilling life. David Harris, professor of ceramics and drawing at Missouri Western State University, knows that better than anyone. He's loved art "since forever."

Harris grew up in the Midwest, living in Iowa when he was in high school. Harris taught at Highland Community College for 17 years and came back to Western in place of a professor who retired. He is now going on his sixth year at Western.

"I always liked the university," Harris said. "And luckily I made the cut."

When speaking of the lessons he wants to teach students, Harris advises them to pursue their passion. Whether they know what that passion is right away, or if they take various college courses to find it, they need to chase it.

"You never know what your passion is going to be until you run across it," Harris said.

Harris explained that he has seen multiple students attend college for things like law or psychology, but ended up doing something completely different with their lives that made them happy.

In regards to Harris's teaching, senior Kay Falterman mentions his "laid-back" methods,

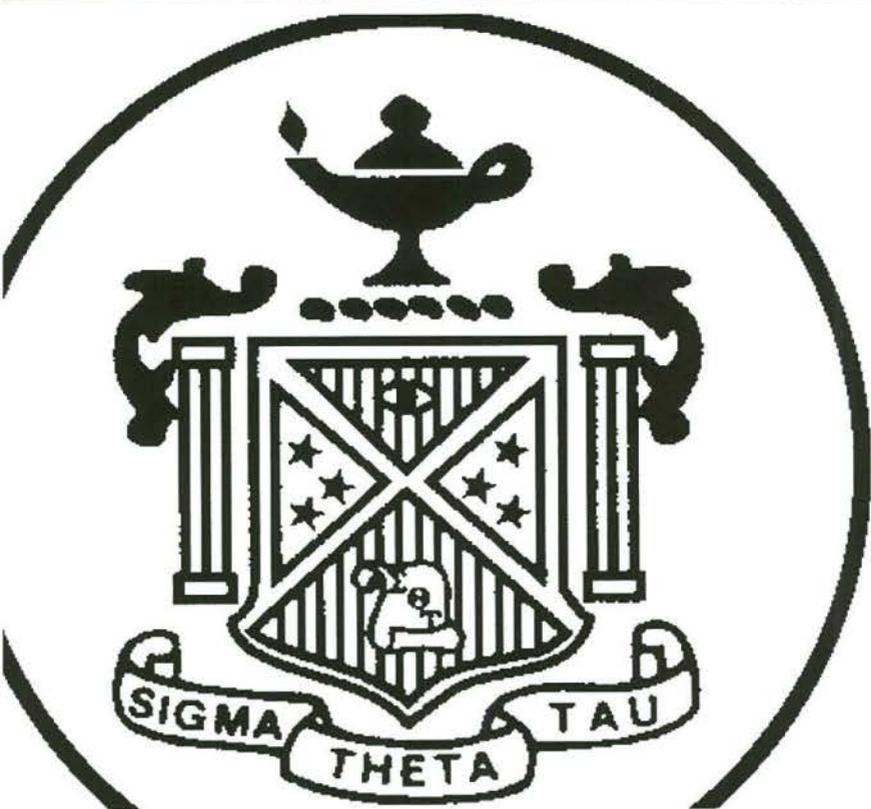


Associate professor David Harris competes in a pottery contest. Harris has organized the Visual Arts Day at Western the past three years.

commenting that daring to think out of the box is easier when a professor is as approachable and accepting as Harris.

"If you have any questions, it's really easy to approach him about anything," Falterman said.

# Making an Impact



Dr. Machel Skinner is member of Sigma Theta Tau. She has been a member of the honor society for nursing since 2005.

Skinner encourages her students to be open-minded and have a broader view of things, particularly nursing.

Skinner grew up in DeRidder, Louisiana, a rural town on the Texas border. She has received multiple degrees from different universities, including a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Western. Skinner has been a professor at Western since 2011, teaching Community Health Nursing and Pharmacology, as well as instructing research groups.

“I always wanted to teach,” Skinner said, “and Missouri Western was such a great experience for me in the nursing program, that when I was finally able to teach, I wanted to give back to the program.”

Complimenting Western’s nursing department, Skinner explained how supportive her colleagues are to her now, as well as when she was a student.

“Everyone’s really welcoming, and they were always really good about assisting me [then and now] as I grow as a professor,” Skinner said.

**N**ursing is more than being by someone’s bedside – you impact communities all around the globe. Professor Machel Skinner of Missouri Western State University’s nursing department believes that wholeheartedly.

“Nursing happens in the community; it happens globally,” Skinner said. “What [students] do, wherever they are, impacts not only those people immediately around them, but those around the world.”



# Being Present

[ Photo: Shannie Keller ]

Mary Stone sits at her desk on a cold January day, soft-spoken and smiling. Very few would suspect that this professor of English has traveled the country, been in the army and practices Taekwondo on occasion.

Stone is going on her third year as a professor and advisor at Missouri Western State University. She pushes her students to work hard and gain perspective through their own ideas, as well as the ideas of others. Stone believes that students shouldn't just agree to attend college; they need to really try at it.

"You can't just float through life, you know? You've got to ... be present," Stone said.

As a kid, Stone grew up in Holt County and waited five years after high school to attend college. She graduated in 2009 from Western with her Bachelor's in English Literature and went on to graduate school. During the five years between high school and college she traveled with a magazine crew around



Dr. Mary Stone keeps copies of Canvas, Missouri Western literature and art magazine, on her desk. Stone has published poems in Canvas and several other places.

the country, selling magazine subscriptions door-to-door and living in hotels. She visited Los Angeles, Phoenix, Texas, Florida and then joined the army. After joining the army, she lived in North Carolina and did some more moving around.

"You learn a lot more about yourself, I think, if you make mistakes or do things the non-traditional way," Stone said. Stone also holds open-mic readings at Café Acoustic for Western students as well as the

general public. These open-mic readings help establish a connection between the general public and academic writing community.

"As a much-published poet," said professor of English and former department of English chair Dr. Mike Cadden. "Mary cares about writing a great deal and she uses her experience as a writer in the classroom. She is a positive presence in the [English] department."

WE ARE  
WHAT  
<sup>we</sup> Repeatedly  
do  
EXCELLENCE  
*Therefore,*  
IS NOT AN ACT,  
*Habit* • BUT A •  
(Aristotle)

# PROFILES

[ Design: Bryant Scott ]





# A Legacy Remembered

| Story: Daniel Cobb |

| Photos: Submitted |

| Design: Jodi Stamback |





**D**r. Patricia Donaher was more than just a professor at Missouri Western. To students, she was a beloved teacher and advisor – always willing to help those seeking her advice. To her fellow professors, she was a hard, ambitious worker who was always full of enthusiasm and energy.

“She was very energetic, always in motion and always had a smile,” said Dr. Susie Hennessy, professor and department chair of French, said. “Even if she was tired from grading papers all night, she still brought the energy that she did have to whatever she was doing, so I guess that she was a good model in that respect.”

Donaher came to Missouri Western State College in 1995 as an adjunct instructor after receiving her Ph.D. in English from the University of Nebraska.

Over her career, she taught over 20 English courses at Missouri Western and was awarded the Jesse Lee Myers Excellence in Teaching award in 2006.

“Trish was extremely organized,” said Stacia Bensyl, a close friend and colleague of Donaher, said. “She was extremely ambitious. She was a very hard worker – put in inordinate amounts of work for the university

and the department. She was very compassionate with students.”

Dr. Michael Cadden, professor of English and director of childhood studies, agreed that students were incredibly important to Donaher.

“She had a fierce following as a teacher; a lot of people really got attached to her,” Cadden said. “She was somebody who really used advising as a way to get involved with students. She very much liked the one-on-one work with students. She wouldn’t just meet with them to work on classes and things; she was as much a counselor as an advisor to students.”

Advising was an important part of Donaher’s career at Missouri Western. According to the EFLJ blog ([www.cfljblog.blogspot.com](http://www.cfljblog.blogspot.com)), Donaher was quite a popular advisor.

“Dr. Donaher was a sought-after adviser, famous for her interest and support in her advisees’ academic and personal lives. Her office was rarely empty,” the blog stated.

But she wasn’t just an excellent teacher. According to her colleagues, she was an amazing person.

Moreover, she had a desire to improve herself while keeping her

students’ education in mind. And, in order to do that, she attended class during her time at Western.

“She also had a desire to continue learning,” Hennessy said. “She took a couple of French classes from me, and I loved having her in class, because she would ask the questions that the students didn’t ask.”

Yet, despite all that she did, Donaher will always be remembered as a professor who loved her students and always looked on the bright side.

“Yes, she was definitely an optimist,” Dr. Hennessy said with a smile.



In Loving Memory

Dr. Patricia Donaher

MWSU Griffon

1995-2014

# Lasting Impressions

Graduation is getting close. It's one of the scariest and most exciting times of any senior's life. For Julia Buescher, she has a bit more on her plate for that day.

Buescher came to Missouri Western State University her sophomore year after attending the University of Central Missouri. At Western, she has majored in Sports Management as well as minoring in General Business and Speech and Communications. While focusing on school work, she has progressively become more involved in campus life. She joined the sorority Sigma Sigma Sigma which then led to her becoming a part of the Western Activities Council, Student Government Association and was named to the Homecoming Court in 2014. Her experiences in these different organizations and events helped her find her place during her time at Western.

"I saw how everybody interacted with one another," Buescher said. "It was like, wow, this is Missouri Western. I'm here to stay." While her years here have been great, the next chapter of Buescher's life is just around the corner. Graduation is coming up and she has been picked to give the commencement speech. Buescher is definitely nervous, but says that she is excited to do something that the school will remember her by.

"It'll be cool to leave my last mark on Missouri Western." Buescher said. While graduation is bittersweet, Buescher looks forward to what the future holds. She has an internship in the summer with the Global Scouting Bureau in Louisiana and then a conference at Brighton University in England with the Rugby World Cup. After that, she is going to travel in the U.K. for a few weeks and hopes to find somewhere to stay. Then she will go wherever the wind takes her.



# Words of Wisdom



It's finally come to an end. Four long years all lead up to this day; graduation. But for senior Kendra Greer, it's only the beginning.

Throughout her four years, Kendra has done just about everything a student can on campus. She started at Missouri Western State University by becoming a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha before becoming a Griffon Edge leader for two years. She has been on the board for sororities and was also President of the PanHellenic Society. Kendra was a staff member on the Griffon Yearbook where she took photos and she participated in the study abroad program. She won homecoming queen in 2014 and is now going to take on the scariest task any student could ever have; giving a commencement speech at graduation.

"I've worked up to this point," Greer said. "It's kind of a final way to leave my mark on Missouri Western." While her four years might be over, she says her speech will be her way to thank everyone who has been on this journey with her. Kendra will be graduating in May, but she has a wealth of plans for what comes next. She plans to move to the Kansas City area to search for a job and says that she's willing to relocate anywhere.

The next chapter of Kendra's life might be just around the corner, but it was this campus that prepared her for it. She's looking forward to the future, but will always remember the school that got her there.

"The atmosphere, the overall black and gold feeling, is what I'm going to miss the most." Kendra said.

[ Story: Tommy Marshall ]

[ Photos: Submitted ]

[ Design: Jodi Stamback ]





# SHOT

## Shotgun Club aims to grow and succeed

**T**he grass has bright orange fragments of rock all over. Red and green shotgun shells litter the concrete.

“Pull!”

In less than 5 seconds, a loud bang results in a rock shattering and another happy smile from the shooter – a perfect round of trap shooting.

Where do you find this scene?

Missouri Western’s Shotgun Club has been an organization since October of 2013 and was recognized by the Student Government Association at the end of January 2014. The club practices at Western’s own trap range, located on the west campus grounds.

trap shooting. Scholz said that he hopes the club eventually competes in both trap and skeet, or even three of the collegiate shotgun sports.

Scholz said that three members - he, Vice President Jake Edwards and Coltin Ridenour - competed this summer at the World Championships, located in Sparta, Illinois. Scholz took second place in his age division for trap and fifth in the high all-around, which includes singles trap, handicap trap and doubles trap.

Edwards set a personal record at the competition.

Although the club does not compete in skeet, Scholz said it is helpful for the club to shoot other disciplines to help break up the monotony of practice and learn new skills.

### Competition

According to Matt Scholz, president of the Shotgun Club, there are three main collegiate shotgun sports: trap, skeet and sporting clays.

The team is currently competing only in American

### Membership

According to Scholz, the organization started with about 30 members, but many weren’t ready to put in the work that came with starting up an organization. Now, the Shotgun Club has 12 paying members.



The Missouri Western Shotgun Club practices at Western's own trap range. The club has a strong core group of members (far left). President Matt Scholz coaches Coltin Ridenour during a round of shooting (left). Jake Edwards works on his shot at the range during practice on a windy day (below).



## Organization

Edwards said that experience is not required to join the Shotgun Club.

“We have members that shot all their life and members that never shot before, so you don’t have to have experience to join,” Edwards said.

Joseph Hawkins, freshman member of the Shotgun Club, said he got involved with the group because he shot trap in high school and wanted to continue while furthering his education.

Hawkins said that he has continued to learn about shooting from the older members of the club. He also said he is excited for the future and wants more Griffons to become members.

“I hope to see more people get involved,” Hawkins said. “It’s fun. It’s super safe. There’s no reason not to.”

Scholz said that the club is definitely an educational experience.

“The Shotgun Club isn’t a bunch of rednecks going out and just shooting stuff,” Scholz said. “We’re an organized group.”

The organization of the group began last semester, when Scholz and the rest of the members completed paperwork to become recognized by multiple shooting organizations.

Some of these organizations include the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), Midway USA, Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA) and Academics, Integrity, and Marksmanship (AIM), which is the high school and collegiate division of ATA.

[ Story, Photos & Design: Taylor Allen ]

“There’s a \$50 membership fee per semester,” Scholz said. “It is the second cheapest, I believe, in the Midwest for a shotgun club.”

## Experience

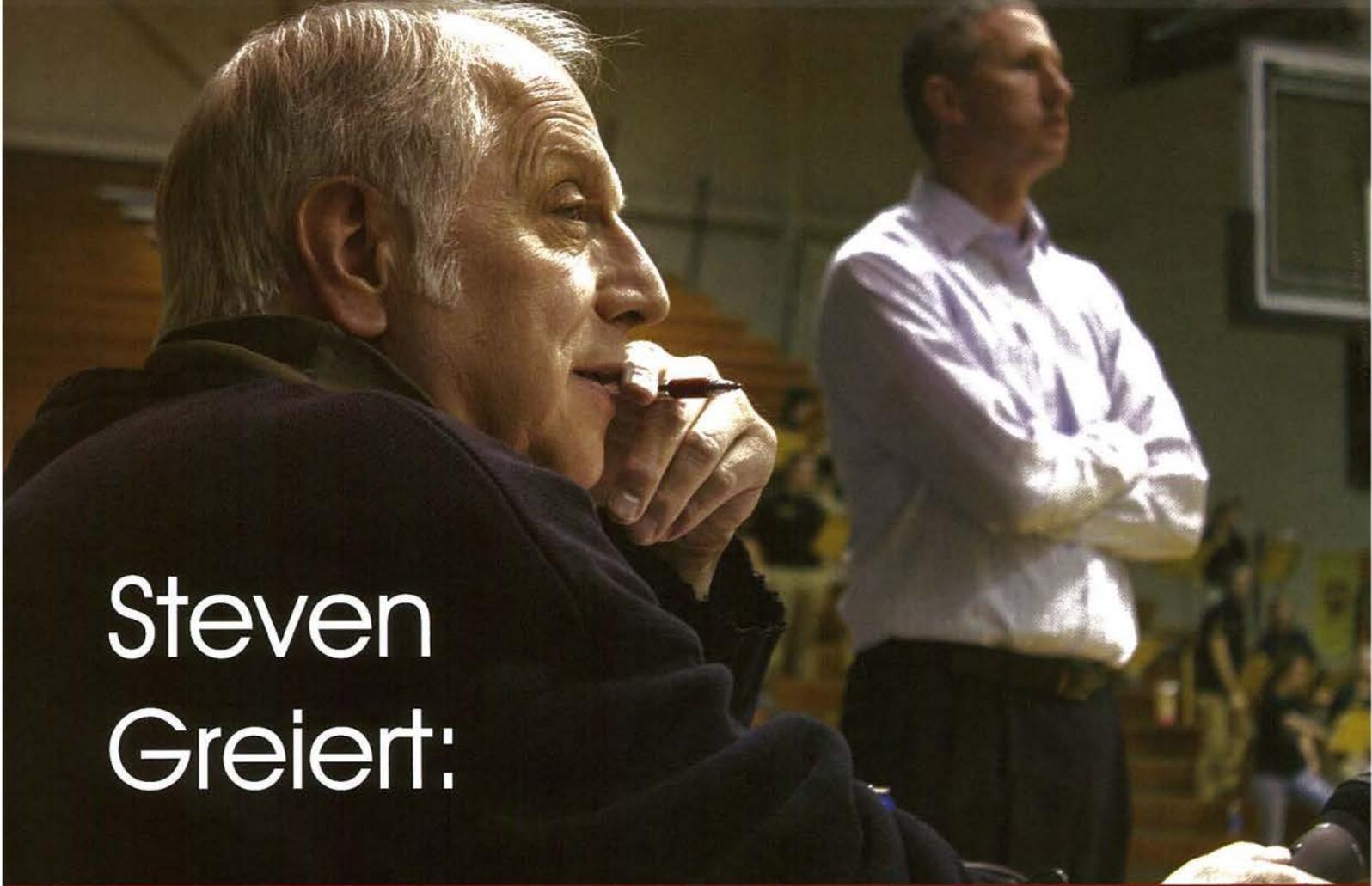
According to Scholz, the club has to charge the fee because Western’s Shotgun Club is not associated with the athletic department. Therefore, the club is responsible for providing insurance, along with prizes and trophies once they start hosting competitions at Western.

Members of the club must also supply their own ammunition, gun and gear.

Because Western is a firearm-free campus, the members of the Shotgun Club keep their guns and ammunition off-campus at other members’ houses.

Along with being president of the club, Scholz has coaching certification for shotguns. Some of the members of the club had no previous experience with firearms.

“It’s just been that coach’s mentality of being able to prepare an individual to handle a firearm properly, being able to use a firearm in a safe manner, and understanding the power of and what is involved with using a firearm,” he said.



# Steven Greiert:

## The Voice of the Griffons

[ Story & Photos: Blair Russel ]  
[ Design: Jessika Eidson ]

Fans have watched players come and go at Missouri Western State University year after year, but there is one thing that hasn't changed for quite some time: a familiar voice that echoes through the sound system. Steven Greiert has been announcing Western's basketball and football games since 1992.

Greiert is a professor of history, chair of the department of history and geography, and the chair of philosophy and religion here at Western. He grew up in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and Madison, Wisconsin. Greiert graduated from St. Olaf College in Minnesota magna cum laude and went on to earn his masters and Ph.D. at Duke University.

After teaching as an adjacent faculty member for a year at Duke, Greiert moved to Erie, Pennsylvania to teach at Penn State-Erie from 1977-1982. Greiert then moved to St. Joseph, Missouri, to start his career at Western.

One day in 1985, Greiert and the sports information director for Western at the time, Paul Sweetgall, were

talking sports when Sweetgall mentioned how they'd had some issues with Western on the radio in the past and that they hadn't been on the air in quite awhile.

"Well, can I try it?" Greiert had asked. He had found himself calling the game in his head when he spectated and decided he wanted to give his voice a shot. So he began announcing for the Griffons on KKJO radio and did so for about 7 years.

Once KFEQ radio wanted to take over the Western games, Sweetgall and Greiert sat down and decided Greiert would transition to announcing over the PA system at home games. It was a good time for Greiert to transition as his only daughter was beginning to participate in middle school sports and activities, and he would have more time to watch since he would no longer be on the road with the Griffons to do the radio broadcast

Greiert refers to himself as a remotely shy and reserved person, so friends would get a good chuckle when he

would get a little crazy and people couldn't believe it was him announcing. He says announcing is a great change of pace from the day.

"At the end of the day when your mind is just mush, it actually relaxes you. It's creative and it's relaxing," Greiert said.

Greiert's favorite part about announcing is close games that go back and forth, and of course when Western gets the win. The bigger the crowd, the more energy and fun.

When Greiert announces for basketball, he says it is easier to be biased for Western, but transitioning to football he says he has to be more neutral, except for touchdowns when he gets to be a little more excited.

Greiert believes that his announcing career has helped with his students as well by breaking down barriers.

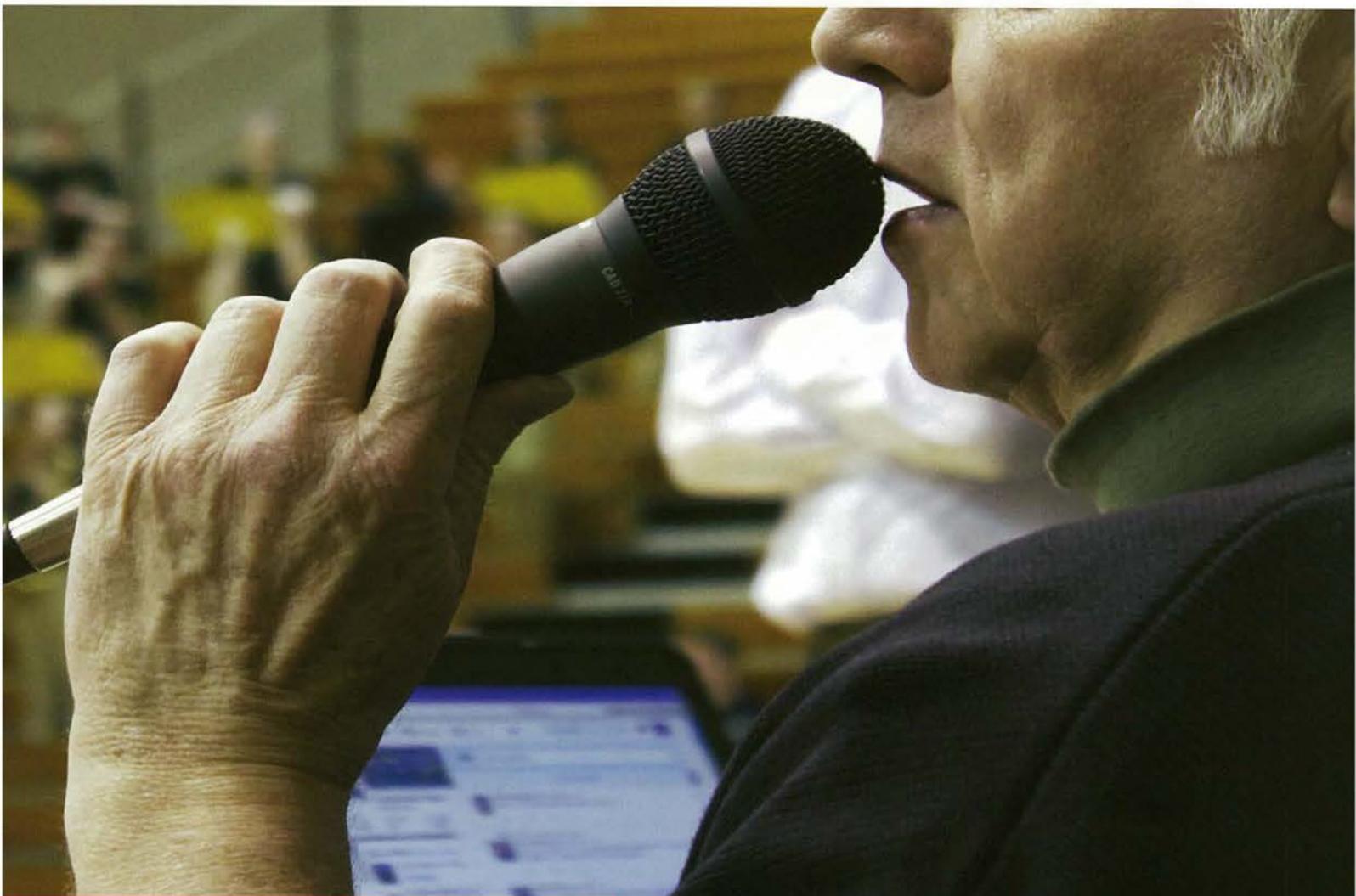
"They think 'oh, you're actually a real person'," Greiert said.

He has taught many athletes over the years and has even taught the head volleyball coach and former

volleyball player of Western Marian Carbin. Carbin agreed that Greiert was more approachable knowing that he had an appreciation for sports and athletics. She loved when there was a one-and-one free throw opportunity and after the shooter made the first. Greiert would say "And this is the penalty!" She had never heard an announcer say that before and thinks it's a Dr. Greiert trademark.

Greiert has always been interested in sports. He played basketball and football in high school, and when he was a young boy he dreamt of being a major league baseball player or a professional football player. He has loved seeing the teams at Western grow and improve over the years. He believes the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) is the best athletic conference in the NCAA Division II competition.

Greiert has loved having this opportunity and considers himself lucky to have had it. Although Greiert will be retiring from Western in August, the familiar voice of the Griffons will continue to be heard for many years to come.

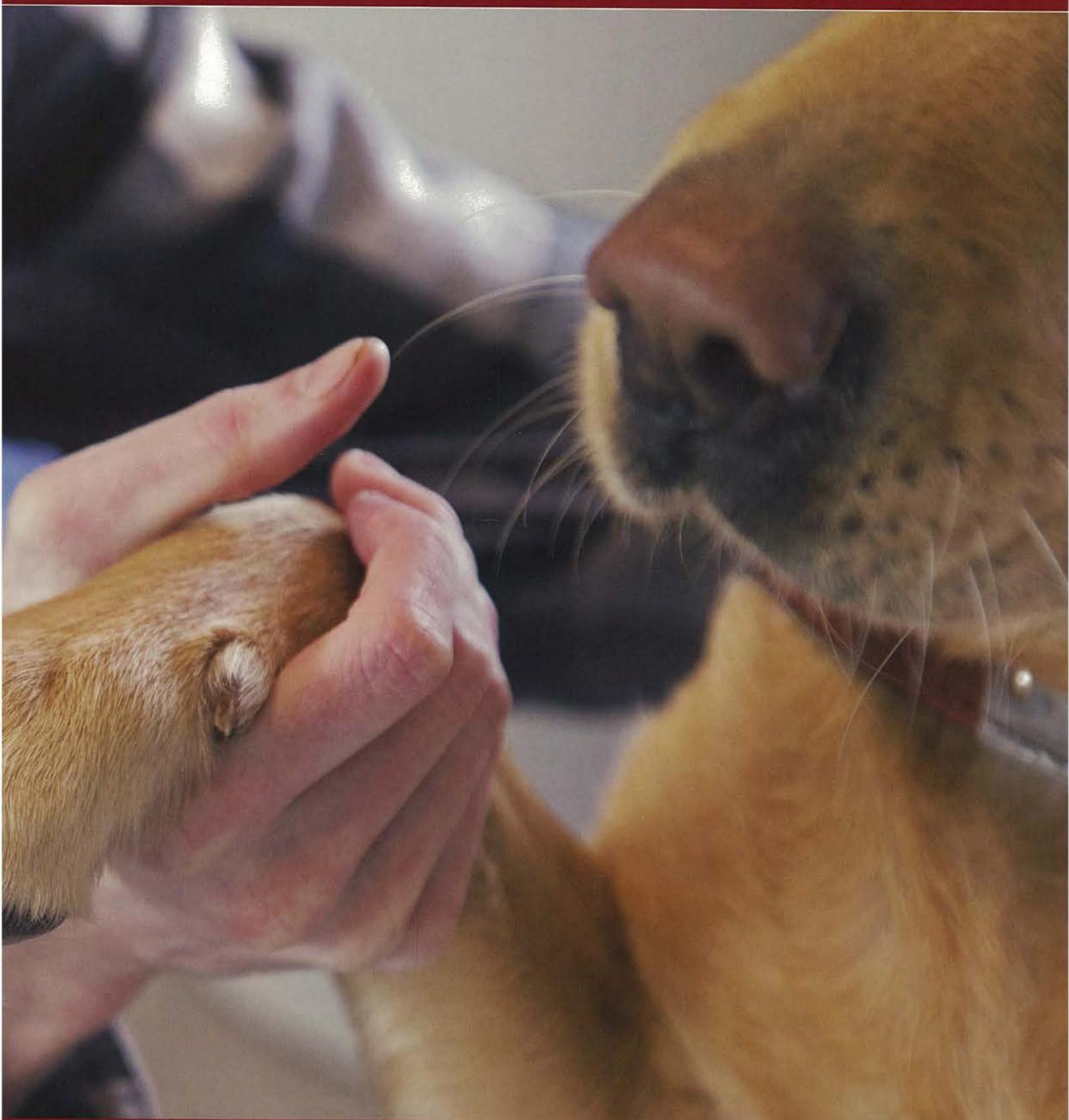


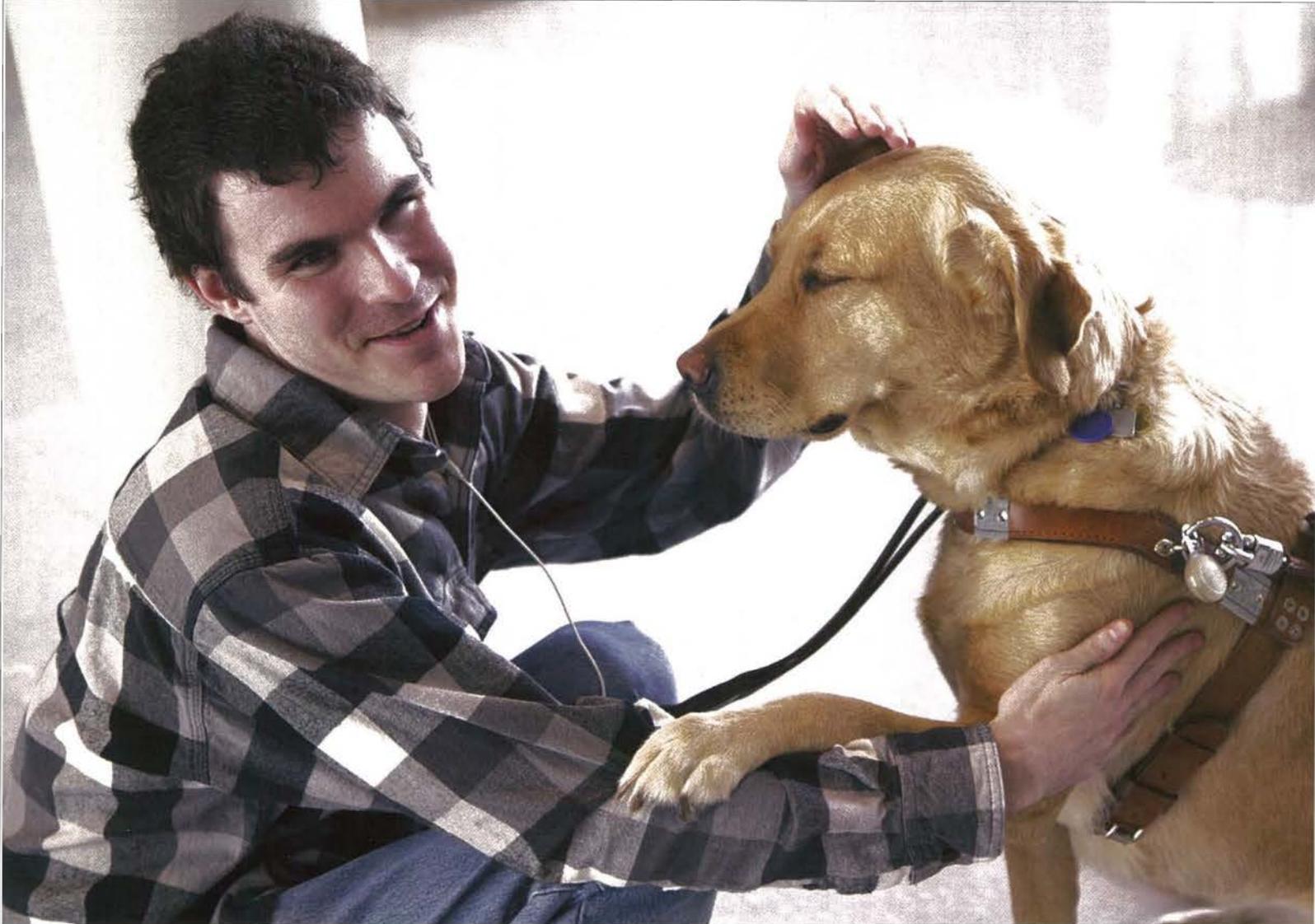
Greiert loves announcing exciting games. Greiert felt lucky to have been given the opportunity to announce.

# JORDAN LYNCH & ORCHID

[ Story & Photos: Jeni Swope ]  
[ Design: Jodi Stamback ]







**A** best friend is someone who stays beside you always, and for psychology major Jordan Lynch, his dog Orchid is that best friend. Lynch has the privilege of bringing Orchid with him to campus everyday. They go to class together, eat lunch together and spend their free time playing together.

While Lynch and Orchid have developed a close relationship much like any other boy and his dog, it is not always fun and games for the pair. When Orchid puts on her harness and leash, it is time for her to work, as it is her job to help navigate Lynch while keeping him safe from harm.

Lynch was born premature, at one pound and 10 ounces, and completely visionless. But 24 years later, he is a dedicated Missouri Western student who never lets his condition hold him back. Rather, Jordan maintains an optimistic outlook with every endeavor.

“A lot of people ask me if I wish that I could see, and I always respond that you can’t really miss what you’ve never had,” Lynch said. “Sure I wish I could see the mountains and the oceans, that kind of thing, but I don’t yearn for it because I haven’t ever had it to miss.”

For the first two decades of his life, Lynch found his way around using a cane. When he was 22 years old, Lynch applied online to be matched with a guide dog. After submitting videos of him walking, Lynch was soon paired based on his pace with Orchid, a 2-year-old Golden Labrador Retriever. Lynch then traveled to New York where he and Orchid could meet and start their training together.

Lynch was nervous to meet Orchid for the first time, just as anyone would feel when meeting someone new. However, his tensions were eased the moment Orchid came through the door.

“They brought her to my room to meet me,” Lynch said. “And she jumped up on the bed and hugged me, like she was saying ‘I finally have met you after two years of life.’”

Guide dog training is an intense process, involving nearly eight hours of work every day for two weeks. Lynch and Orchid had to learn to walk at the same pace, and how to navigate common obstacles such as curbs, stairs and crosswalks. Lynch found it difficult initially, as he was accustomed to walking with a cane instead.

Lynch and Orchid have a trusting relationship that goes beyond work. After long days the pair have spent evenings engaging in an old-fashioned game of catch.

“

And she jumped up on the bed and hugged me, like she was saying ‘I finally have met you after two years of life!’

”

## Jordan Lynch, on meeting Orchid for the first time

Light ] Lynch’s guide dog, Orchid, leads Lynch to his next class. Orchid has been helping Lynch navigate campus since Lynch started at Missouri Western.

“We did a whole lot of walks and street crossings,” Lynch said. “It was fun, but it was hard at the same time because I wasn’t used to it.”

After graduating from training, Lynch and Orchid continued to develop as a team, taking on new challenges such as Lynch enrolling at Missouri Western. While on campus, Lynch occasionally allows his peers to interact with Orchid, but only when she is not busy working, and it is very important for his safety that his guide dog is not disrupted. Accessibility Resource Center coordinator Mike Ritter has worked with other guide dogs previously, and encourages students to respect Lynch and Orchid as she works.

“Jordan has a very laid-back attitude when it comes to life in general, and he also has that attitude with his dog,” Ritter said. “Technically speaking though, people are not supposed to interact with a service animal while it is working, because it is helping its human counterpart.”

Orchid helps Lynch navigate the campus by memorizing the routes to Lynch’s classes each semester. She can respond to verbal cues, distinguish between classes and even distinguish between Lynch’s professors. One of his professors, psychology department chair Dr. Brian Cronk, didn’t mind having Orchid in the classroom,

as she was very well behaved, despite the occasional attention from students.

“She’d lay down in the back of the class and be perfectly quiet, and the students would be drawn to her,” Cronk said. “But Orchid’s never been a problem in class.”

Lynch admits that Orchid does receive a lot of attention, though in the classroom she’s just like another student.

“They’re really respectful of her and don’t mind having her in there,” Lynch said. “She’s never disrupted any classes. The worst she’s ever done is snored in class.”

As he approaches his senior year, Lynch remains fueled by a motivation to be successful in everything he does, and refuses to be restrained by his condition. His unwavering optimism has only been strengthened since pairing with Orchid. The two are inseparable morning and night, and Lynch wouldn’t have it any other way.

“I have developed teamwork with her,” Lynch said. “And now I can’t imagine life without her at all.”





Photo: Jeni Swope |

# The Wildlife Society



Missouri Western State University's student chapter of The Wildlife Society has done it again. For the sixth year in a row they have been named Student Chapter of the Year for the North Central Section of The Wildlife Society. It is a great honor for the society and displays all of the hard work that the members put in year after year.

"It's a good thing," senior Jordan Meyer said. "It shows that we're active and being productive."

The society keeps that productivity going all year long and with each member putting in hundreds of hours of volunteer work to help protect and conserve wildlife. Some activities performed by society members include maintaining different habitats, surveying animals and giving classes on wilderness safety.

The society was formed in 1937, and is dedicated to the preservation of wildlife and the ecosystems that sustain them. The skills learned through the society's experiences helps members who plan on going into a field involving conservation gain the experience they need. Their passion is undeniable, and with Western's chapter winning this award several times, it definitely shows.

While the award is great, Western's student chapter of The Wildlife Society will continue pushing its students forward.

"The award is good and I'm happy that we're getting it,"

Chapter President Carly Compton said. "I still just get a little bit nervous that we're getting too comfortable with what we're doing and not expanding. It's good to keep moving forward."

The group sees ever-increasing opportunities in new partnerships with other student chapters, and the award gets them motivated to keep going beyond what the society is used to. They strive to set groundwork for themselves and the members to come. It is a good goal not only for students that are already members, but those who wish to get involved.

"We're trying to incorporate new things," Chapter Vice-President Daniel Robertson said.

The chapter does this by encouraging members to jump into positions they aren't entirely used to, for example a field member taking a hand at office work. They also work with other groups and chapters to keep it mixed up.

These kinds of advancements are the ones that keep the chapter winning the Student Chapter of the Year Award time after time. With new members joining all the time, it looks like it's going to stay that way. The groundwork is set, now the only way to go is up.

[ Story: Thomas Marshall ]

[ Design: Bryant Scott ]



Wildlife Society members use radio tracking devices to find previously tagged animals. The wildlife society has been brought together wildlife students to put real world application of skills to good use. Photos Submitted: The Wildlife Society at Missouri Western. ]

# ERIC FUSON:

## Cultivating a passion for art

Missouri Western Artist in Residence Eric Fuson had never dreamed he would be recreating the likeness of the late CBS news anchor Walter Cronkite, and yet his finished bronze bust now sits proudly in Spratt Hall. This accomplishment was just another stepping stone in Fuson's ever expanding career as an artist.

Sculpture is only one of many mediums Fuson has taken on over the years. Fuson loves discovering new art forms and finds entertainment in learning and using new techniques. He feels lucky to be in a career field that he finds exciting and fun, as opposed to one full of drudgery and the mundane.

"I really don't dread coming to work at all," Fuson said. "I always enjoy it. If you're working at a job where you're always looking at the clock, you're working in the wrong profession."

As an undergrad at Missouri Western State College, Fuson first studied architecture, but after taking a drawing class, he realized the opportunities and possibilities to explore in the art world were limitless. From there he spiraled outwards, exploring a multitude of mediums such as charcoal, paper, wire, graphic design, photography and three-dimensional design.

After graduating from Missouri Western, his former professors called him back to teach a class in drawing. He found himself teaching more and more classes, until the school ultimately hired him as full time professor.

Pete Hriso, chair of the Department of Art, praises Fuson on

his dedication to his students, seeing the positive effect he leaves on the students by pushing them to always take chances and try new ideas.

"He wants students to learn," Hriso said. "He's very passionate about art, and he likes it when students are passionate about art too. He just wants to share his passion."



Artist in Residence Eric Fuson puts the finishing touches on his clay model of the late news anchor Walter Cronkite. This was the first time Fuson had sculpted a celebrity figure.

Teaching has additional benefits for Fuson, as working with his students often sparks new ideas across the artistic spectrum. Not only does he get to share his experiences and knowledge of the profession with his students, but he and his students often find themselves sharing fresh ideas and motivations back and forth with each other.

“I get inspired by my students constantly,” Fuson said. “Not only is it exciting for me as an artist, but it’s exciting for me to be able to speak to students and say ‘I understand where you’re coming from. I’ve worked in that before and here’s what I found out.’”

Because of his familiarity and constant presence in the halls of Potter, Fuson is well known and well liked among students. Many students, such as sophomore Garrett Brooks, have sought out Fuson’s advice on their projects, appreciating that he is always there to help them when they need it.

“Even in the hours after the halls had closed, he would stay and help us out with things we were struggling with that he had seen in the class previously,” Brooks said.

Fuson’s passion of encouraging his students to grow as artists is evident, and he takes a very hands-on approach. In doing this, Fuson serves as a model for his students, by showing them how beneficial it is to be a multi-faceted artist.

“He’s pushed me to do better and better,” Brooks said. “Even when I think to myself that what I have is the best I’m going to get, he’d always encourage me to try it again and go further than I did before.”

Aside from teaching full-time, Fuson is designing new works on a



The Walter Cronkite bust now sits proudly on display in the Walter Cronkite Memorial in Spratt Hall. The bust has been well received by the community and the Cronkite family.

“ He wants students to learn. He’s passionate about art and he likes it when students are passionate about art too. ”

Peter Hirso,  
Art Department  
Chair

regular basis, both for the university and for himself. As an Artist in Residence, Fuson is tasked with creating original artwork for the school, as well as working in collaboration with other artists to bring a wider variety of artwork to campus.

He has also had a large hand in designing many of the features of the Walter Cronkite Memorial, such as the timeline wall.

His work for the memorial, including the Cronkite bust, is just another step forward in Fuson’s illustrious career at Missouri Western. Fuson continues to work on new ideas daily, and through all of his hard work, he has been sure to never remain in stasis.

[ Story & Photos: Jeni Swope ]  
[ Design: Jodi Stamback ]



# Time



# out

## Midfielders Bailey Dervin and Teddi Serna watch this season of Griffon Soccer from the sidelines

Every athlete that takes the field of play never thinks that this will be the day his or her season or career will come to an end due to a serious injury.

Nothing could have been truer for Griffon soccer players' senior Teddi Serna and sophomore Bailey Dervin. Before the season had reached the halfway point both players saw their season end.

Dervin's injury came during an away match with conference rival Northwest Missouri State. During first half action, Dervin went to challenge for possession of the ball against a Bearcat opponent.

"I planted my right foot, and the other player came across my leg," Dervin said.

The resulting injury was a compound fracture of the tibia and fibula of her right leg. She remembered, "yelling like nothing before."

Dervin was removed from the field and transported to the hospital in Maryville where later that Friday night, she was transported to Heartland Hospital where surgery was performed to repair the fracture. A steel rod was inserted into her right leg that ran from just below the knee to end of the fibula just above her right foot.

Although Dervin is just a sophomore, and has many more Griffon soccer matches ahead of her, this season is in athletic terms "a total loss". Dervin's injury came in the fifth match of the season, one match beyond the cut off that would have given her an extra year of eligibility.

Serna's injury also took place while on the road to S. W. Baptist in early October. In medical term Serna's injury is a torn ACL, MCL and meniscus and will require surgery to repair the damage to her right knee.

Serna said that she was "running down the sideline when an opposing player hit the outside of her right

knee”. Serna also said that, “most players will come back from such an injury but I won’t.”

What makes these injuries potentially devastating for Griffon soccer coach Chad Edwards and the remaining members of the Griffon soccer team is that both ladies are mid-fielders whose match play depends significantly on knowing where your teammate is on the field.

Coach Edward’s utilizes a 4-4-2 line-up where four mid-fielders do a lot to control the pace of play when the ball enters the mid-field. To lose one mid-fielder for the season is a serious blow to any soccer team, but to have two lost for the season is potentially disastrous.

To fill these two positions brought on by the injuries to Dervin and Serna, Coach Edwards called upon two very talented freshmen Bridgett Blessie and Sydney Cluck.

Teammates K. C. Ramsell and Blessie were asked how these injuries have impacted the team as a whole. Blessie feels the necessity to work a harder and to give 110% when on the pitch. Ramsell was a member to the 2013 women’s soccer team when several similar injuries devastated the team. She stated that the difference from this year’s team and last year has been team attitude.

The two injuries also means Ramsell will see additional minutes of playing time. The season ending injury to Serna may have had a greater impact on Ramsell from a non-playing vantage point since she and Serna have been teammates since high school.

The final home match of each season is set aside to

recognize the contributions made by seniors. On a chilly Halloween night, as players prepared for player introductions you could hear the match announcer say, “from Bellevue, Nebraska, a mid-fielder, #7, senior Teddi Serna.”

Serna took her normal position with the starting line up and at the conclusion of the National Anthem she kicked off for the Griffons to start her final home match as a member of the Griffon soccer team.

Now, both girls can be seen patrolling the sidelines



Bailey Dervin dribbles the ball past Bemidji State University midfielder Emily Olson. Dervin played in five games this season before being injured.

during a match with their right leg in a cast and hobbling around on their crutches. They can also be heard yelling words of encouragement to their teammates and each wearing a very contagious smile on their faces.

[ Story & Photos: John Ellis ]  
[ Design: Jessika Eidson ]

Teddi Serna steals the ball from  
Northeastern State University. Serna started  
17 games this season before she was  
injured.





# STEPHANIE

# GUMMELT

## SAINT JOSEPH'S LOCAL TREASURE

**S**tephanie Gummelt is not your average college student. Her distinct individuality and quirky sense of humor sets her apart from many other students. She brings an aura of personality that is all her own, from her style to her music. Unlike most college students, Gummelt has been on the hit television show American Idol.

Gummelt became interested in music at a young age, singing The Backstreet Boys with her Barbie karaoke machine. At age 12, she received her first guitar and began to teach herself how to play. This was also the time that she began writing songs. Over the years, she has built a catalog of over 50 compositions.

Her first real gig was auditioning for St. Joe's Got Talent in which she picked up several other gigs including St. Joe Live, JoeStock and Music in the Mansion. Gummelt's brother Russell recalls her musical ambition and passion in her craft.

"I'm pretty sure Stephanie had already written four

songs before she even left my mother's womb," Russell Gummelt said.

Since fully turning her attention to music, Gummelt has played extensively around town, but it was when she learned of American Idol holding auditions in Kansas City, Missouri that she saw a way to get her music to a national audience.

"When I was little I would watch the show and buy the CD's of the best performers," Gummelt said. "I worshipped the show when I was younger."

The audition started in the early hours of the morning. For eight hours, Gummelt waited with hundreds of other contestants for her chance to sing. Cameras were everywhere, and several interviews passed before she was up in line.

When the time finally came, her nerves were high. Thankfully, she was somewhat calmed when long-time Idol host Ryan Seacrest greeted them before she went in. He took the time to ask of Gummelt's personal

interests and helped relax the atmosphere. Then she was up.

Through the door, Gummelt found herself face-to-face with the show's three judges; Harry Connick Jr., Jennifer Lopez and Keith Urban. The trio joked with her before she performed her original song "Chore." Fighting back nerves, Stephanie tore through the first half of her song before being waved off by Connick. When it was all over, she received two yes votes and one no, which meant only one thing; she was going to Hollywood.

Back in Saint Joseph, her audition was all the buzz. Several parties were held to celebrate her achievement and friends and family gathered to provide support for whatever came next.

While Gummelt was eliminated in the Hollywood round, she holds her head high and looks forward to what her future in music holds. She plans to keep pursuing her passion and considers American Idol an once in a lifetime experience that she'll never forget.

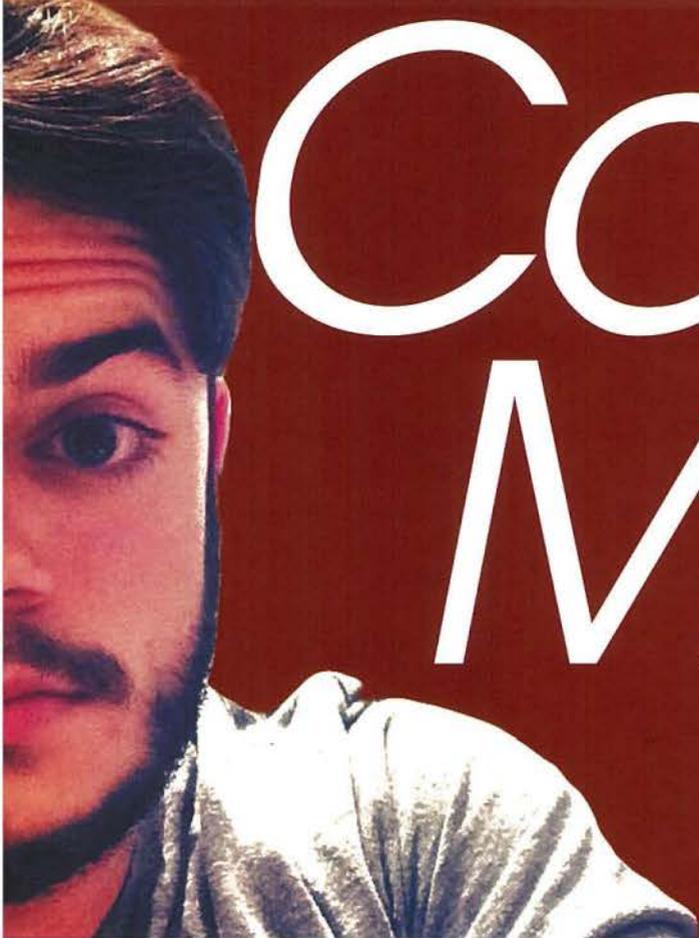
[ Story: Thomas Marshall ]

[ Design & Photos: Jeni Swope ]



[ Top ] Gummelt spends her time between classes playing shows and working at the local guitar shop. She started Missouri Western as a freshman this fall. [ Bottom ] Gummelt works on writing her next song. The singer-songwriter has been playing guitar and writing songs for seven years and has written over 50 songs.





# Corey Myers

## THE BOLDEST BEAT

The solid drumbeat echoed throughout the sanctuary leading the masses into worship service. Voices rang high while Corey Myers drove a beat into the hearts and souls of those lifting their hands and voices in praise.

Myers, born in St. Joseph, started playing drums at 2 years old. He continued to play by ear after receiving a child sized real drumset at 5 years old. At 12 years old, Myers was asked to play for his youth church group at Word of Life, and was given a standard drumset. He played with them all throughout high school and began purchasing his own drum set.

Myers has been offered drum sponsorships from several companies. Kingston Drums is designing him a drum set at half cost, while Heartbeat Cymbals has provided him purchase options at 60-40 to exclusively play their cymbals. He also receives promotional

merchandise from the companies.

Myers now plays for the main worship service at Word of Life church.

“Luckily our worship pastor is into all kinds of music. We play all kinds of stuff like U2, Bob Dylan and Jimi Hendrix,” Myers said.

Myers’ music taste is eclectic and full of artistic idols. Dave Grohl from Nirvana and The Foo Fighters has struck a chord with Myers.

“I like him because he is a really great drummer but is also talented at other things as well,” Myers said.

The Myers family is full of musicians from singers to guitarists, including his uncle who is a professional drummer from Kansas City and plays on cruise ships. His grandfather, a music professor, taught Myers music theory.

“The great thing about my family is that everyone has rhythm and

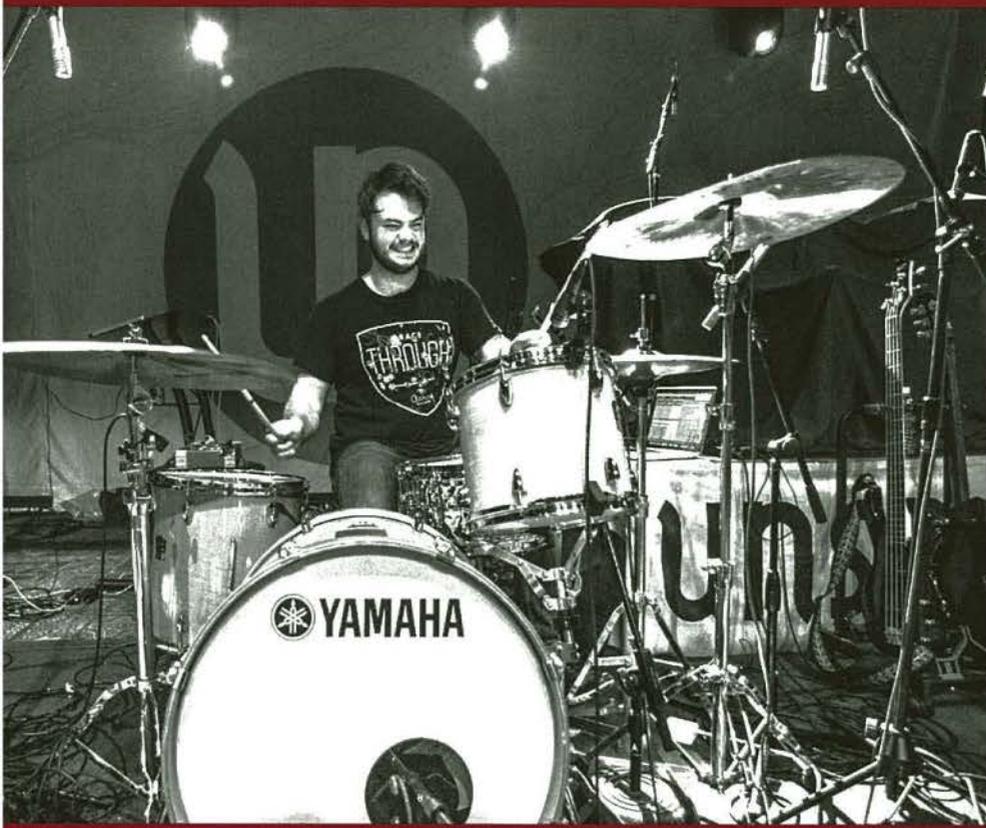
that natural ability,” Myers said. “Probably anyone in my family can pick out a mistake when someone is playing music.”

The Myers’ family was already close because of their musical interests, but two tragedies would bring them together to support and pray for one another. On September 11 2001, Meyer’s mother gave birth to his brother Zachary at Heartland Health Centers.

Zachary was born with Potter’s Disease, a condition where the body fails to form kidneys in utero.

“They were supposed to life flight him to Children’s Mercy in Kansas City, but because of the attacks they couldn’t fly,” Myers said.

After surviving an ambulance ride to and from Children’s Mercy, Zachary passed away at Heartland Hospital hours after arriving. Myers was 6 years old.



In 2014, Myers' mom was surprised and blessed to learn she was pregnant after being told she was unable to have children again. Believing in signs, the Myers family looked at a September 11 due date as significant. They believed that Lennon, the expected addition, would be the blessing they were hoping for in 2001.

Potter's Disease was detected in Lennon and they were told to closely monitor the baby's development. The news was hard on the family.

"[Corey] just stepped up and handled everything the way. It really helped [his siblings] to have that big brother influence. He didn't hide from it at all," Josh Myers, Corey's father, said.

Myers received a phone call one August afternoon to get his brothers and sister from school. Lennon was being delivered early because his umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck. He was two months

premature with underdeveloped lungs and no kidneys.

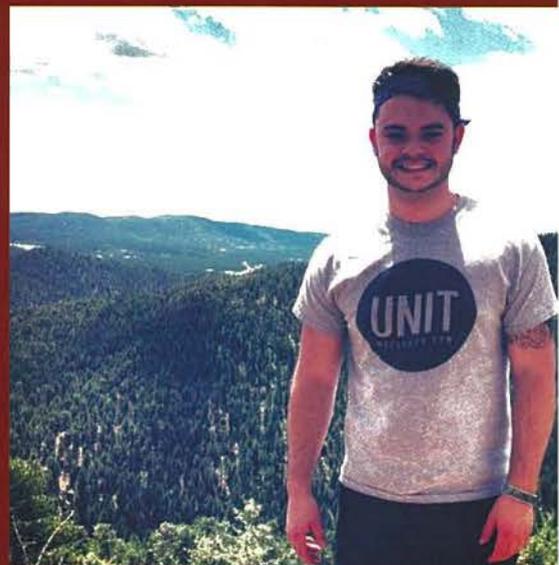
Lennon spent three days in the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) on a ventilator at Children's Mercy Hospital before the family had to make the devastatingly hard decision to remove him from life support. Lennon lived four hours independently before passing away.

Myers has tackled everything in his life full steam and gets joy from spending time with friends and family. He values relationships and enjoys spending time with anyone he can when he gets the opportunity.

[ Story: Bryant Scott ]

[ Photos: Submitted ]

[ Design: Jodi Stamback ]



# introducing Yvonne Meyer

[ Story and Design: Jodi Stamback ]

[ Photo: Jeni Swope ]

She's smart, funny and here to ensure that Missouri Western's campus continues to be one of the safest campuses in the state. Yvonne Meyer, Missouri Western's new chief of police, is experienced and ready to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

This isn't the first time that Meyer finds herself at the top of the law enforcement chain; she comes to Missouri Western from Cape Cod Community College where she served as chief of police for some years. Despite living and working on the east coast for a while, she originally hails from Champaign, Illinois and was ready to be back in the Midwest when she found her new home at Missouri Western.

**Q** What originally got you interested in a career in law enforcement?

**A** Most people, when they pick a career in public service, it's something that they always wanted to do. I didn't always know that this was what I wanted to. I became a police dispatcher and it was at that time that the sergeants in the police department said 'you're wasting your skills setting behind this desk, you're a people person and we need those kinds of people out on the street.' And so from there, I progressed and worked my way up.

**Q** Despite being here such a short time, what makes Western unique?

**A** One of the things that I absolutely love about this campus is its size. Some people may complain about it being a small university, but it gives us [the police officers] the opportunity to meet everyone. I love the fact that I can recognize people and have the opportunity to get to know them along the way.

**Q** If you could give students any kind of advice, what would it be? Any words of wisdom?

**A** First and foremost, learn to treat yourself with respect first. People tell you to treat others with respect, but if you don't treat yourself well you won't go forward in life. Another thing is that tomorrow is another day. Every day is a learning experience and I always take a few minutes every night to kind of recap the day. I like to reflect and find something that I may want to change or to do better tomorrow. And I don't beat myself over that.



# See Ya,

[ Story: Christina Wade ]  
[ Design: Jodi Stamback ]  
[ Photos: Submitted ]

# GUY

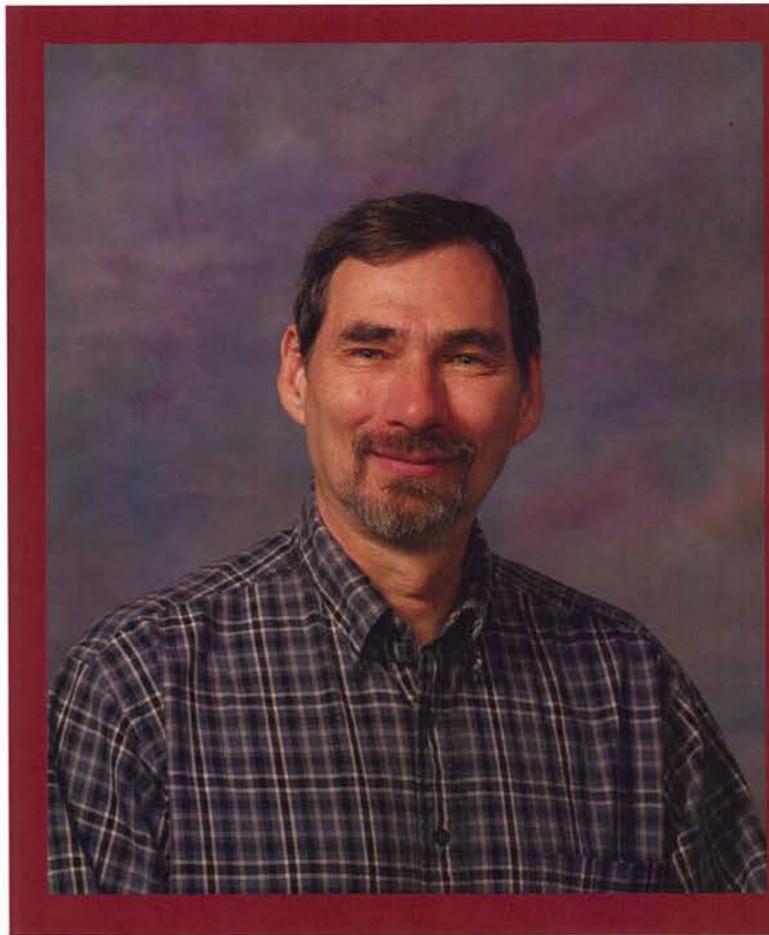
students and faculty remember Don Lillie

A paint roller leaned against the door, a cluster of flowers wrapped around its peak. Letters, hearts cut from construction paper and sticky notes of various colors added to the memorial, all scrawled with the handwriting of students saying their goodbyes to Professor Don Lillie, a man many in Missouri Western's theatre and cinema department called "Dad."

"I first heard about Don's passing when we were in a production meeting when the director got a phone call and shuddered in front of us," RJ Jackson said, a theatre and student of Lillie's. "She hung up and told us the news. We ended the meeting on that note, and when I went upstairs, everyone was walking around Potter quietly with their heads hung low. Many were huddled in groups, hugging and sobbing."

Lillie was a well-known face in Potter Hall, loved for both his kindness as well as his eccentric personality. Theatre lover, Vietnam veteran, Star Trek fan, wearer of Baja "drug rug" hoodies and forgetter of many names, Lillie led a life that many students loved to speculate about. Lillie rarely called students by their names but rather evened the playing field by referring to everyone by the same nomenclature.

"Hey, guy," Lillie said to any student he recognized in the Potter hallways.



“From my first conversation with Don, I knew he wasn't just going to be a teacher, but a life-long friend. I'm so fortunate to have a soul like his as a mentor in my life. Love ya, Dad.”

-Thomas Delgado  
Senior”

That's Don; this mad, amazing, genius of a man who spoke wisdom when you least expected it, who cared for all his "kiddos" and listened and knew their struggles, and who tried to teach all of us what he could and when he could because he wanted us to be and do better than we saw ourselves being."

-Lindsey Hartley  
Senior



Don Lillie [ Far Right ] with the cast of "The Producers." Lillie was the set designer during the production.

”

Lillie passed away in his home on Thursday, Feb. 26. The news broke that afternoon when many students from both the cinema and theatre department preparing to film for their Web Production class. The camera was about to roll when the professors got the call. All of the students in the class were shocked as Lillie had appeared fine days before.

"As soon as we heard we were taken aback for a moment and then got right to work cleaning up," Rayle, a cinema major and student in the Web Production class, said. "Even with the tears and shock, I think the overall feel was that Don would want us to get the job done. Which we did and then took some time together to just process what had happened."

Classes, film shoots and theatre rehearsals were cancelled. A large group formed in the Potter theatre that evening to be together as a group to remember Don in the glow of the ghost light. Others gathered at Lillie's house to comfort the deceased's family.

"I went to his house to visit with his wife and youngest daughter and was amazed by how quickly so many people had gathered," Jackson said. "His wife Judy's spirit was absolutely incredible. Even though she was clearly still in mourning just as we were, there was something about her smiling face thanking us all for coming that seemed to make losing the department Dad a little easier."

Former students also mourned Lillie's loss, including those across the country like Kelsey Houser, a cinema graduate and former Missouri Western stage manager who had moved to Los Angeles following graduation last spring.

"I was extremely shocked and saddened when I heard that Don had passed," Houser said. "I couldn't believe it. I was sad I couldn't be back home to grieve with everyone, but it was nice to see the outpouring of love everyone had for him displayed on Facebook and all the other social media outlets. It let me feel like I could participate and share in this hard time for everyone. He was such a goofy, great guy. He will be truly missed."

As the days and weeks passed, students and colleagues gradually returned to their normal schedules but Potter hall felt a little emptier without Lillie's presence, especially for those students who he influenced the most.

"RIP, guy. You were the professor who believed in me when I didn't, pushed me when I couldn't, and loved us all when we needed it," Jackson said. He smiled, remembering how "Dad" would have ended the conversation. "Now go away."

“

"To me, Don was dad. There isn't a time I remember walking into Potter and him not being there. He was my first professor at Missouri Western. He taught me several life changing lessons. The greatest one of all being that I can do anything. I simply have to believe. I'm so unbelievably lucky to have known him."

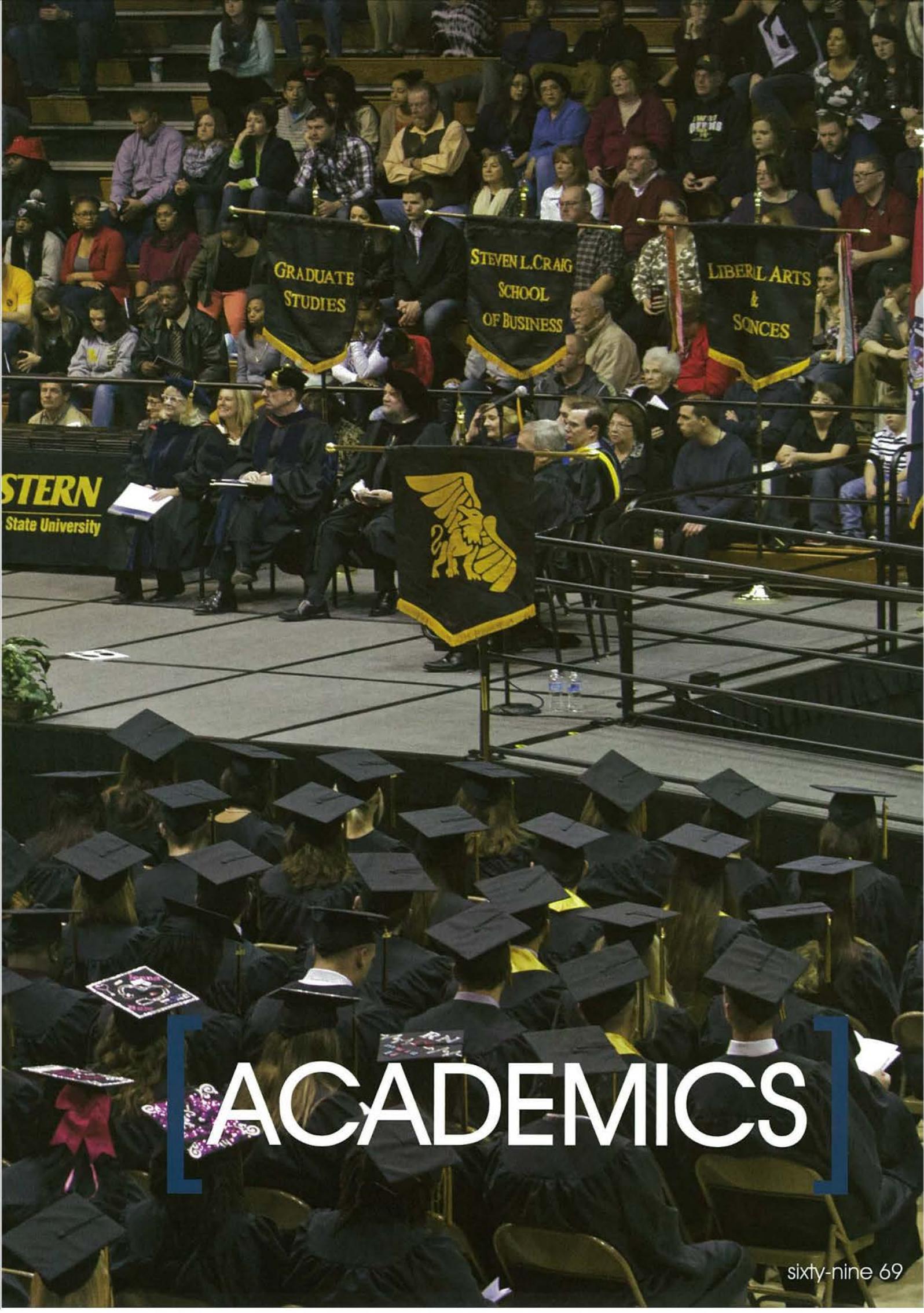
-Nerissa Lee  
Senior

”

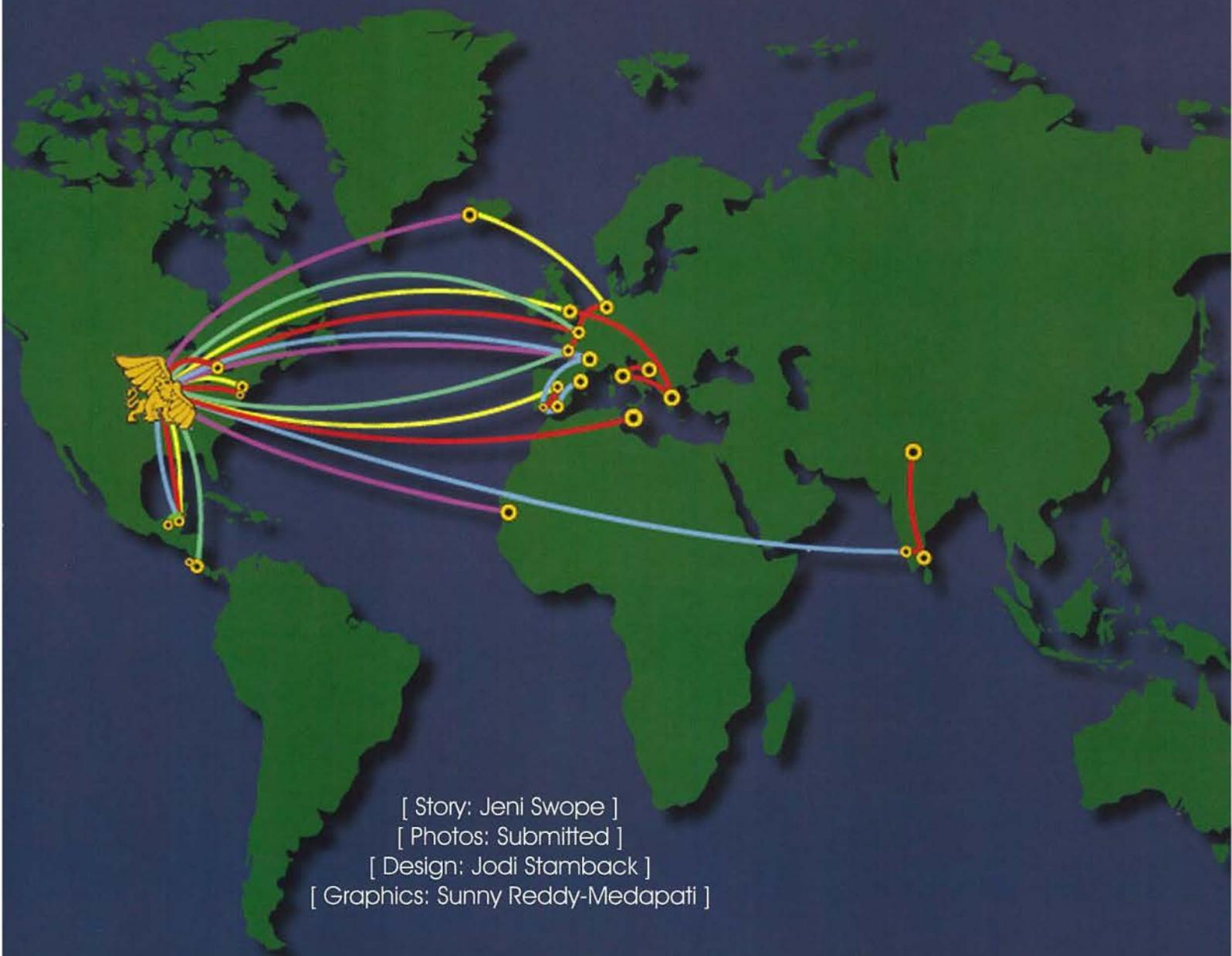
The winter 2014 graduates await their commencement ceremony. Karen Graves received her honorary doctorate for her years of service work.

[ Photo: Jeni Swope ]





# ACADEMICS



[ Story: Jeni Swope ]  
[ Photos: Submitted ]  
[ Design: Jodi Stamback ]  
[ Graphics: Sunny Reddy-Medapati ]

Students looking to get away from their everyday lives in St. Joseph have a broad variety of opportunities available to them through Missouri Western's study abroad program.

Many students may not realize that these opportunities are even available to them. The general assumption about studying abroad is that it involves spending an entire semester in a foreign country, at an expensive school and speaking another language.

While that is an option at Missouri Western, short faculty-led trips are also available.

Over the last five years, various departments have taken students to countries such as Belize, France, Spain, Croatia and Costa Rica. Students were presented with the chance to study with professionals in their field, tour historic museums, present at international conferences and have the unparalleled experience of being immersed in a foreign culture.

# GRIFFONS AROUND the WORLD



Each trip offers a vast array of things for a student to involve themselves in. According to Peggy Ellis, director of study abroad, every trip is planned out to provide students with the maximum cultural experience possible.

“When we go to Spain, for example, we look at four major cities: Madrid, Seville, Granada and Barcelona,” Ellis said.

“Four vastly different places within the same country, with different backgrounds and different specialties and a unique cultural experience in each one.”

Senior nursing student Christine Reichart attended a trip to Belize in 2013 with the nursing department, where she spent nine days working with local doctors to provide care for the more poverty-stricken residents.



[ Right ] Public Relations students enjoy a meal in Switzerland. For many of the students, it was their first time travelling abroad.

[ Above ] Students hold the Missouri Western flag while diving in Central America. The biology department is just one of the many departments that offered study abroad programs over the last few years.

The trip has inspired her to work with Doctors Without Borders, a worldwide effort to bring healthcare services to impoverished nations, in the future.

“It was a great learning experience,” Reichart said. “It helped me look at the community perspective of nursing, and look at the diverse population that I’d be serving once I become a nurse. Healthcare is not just about an individual, it’s about the community we serve.”

Another department that often visits Central America is the biology department, with trips led by Dr. David Ashley. His focus when traveling abroad is on marine biology, but he makes sure to allow his students ample time to explore the locale and immerse themselves in the environment.

“My trips can be described as quality eco-touring,” Ashley said. “They are seeing an environment they would have never had the chance to see, and probably never would.”

For additional adventure, Ashley offers the chance to go scuba diving. Most students are more than happy to snorkel on the surface of the water and still get to see various fish and coral reefs while the divers are a few feet below them in the shallow water.

“If you’ve just gotten dive-certified and don’t have much experience, it’s a real confidence booster,” Ashley said.

“If you’ve just gotten dive-certified and don’t have much experience, it’s a real confidence booster,” Ashley said.

Confidence boosting is something that all departments strive to achieve through their study abroad programs. One department that sees immediate results is the English and modern languages department.

The English and modern languages department leads trips to Spain, France and England for cultural immersion and on-site literature studies. Department chair Dr. Susan Hennessy’s French trips place students into home stays instead of hotels, so students such as senior Sam Poirier can have the unique experience of using the language in everyday life.

“My host family was really sweet,” Poirier said. “They were very much like my own family at home, so I could still relate to them.”

Other Europe-bound trips have been led by the theatre and art and communications departments.

The theatre department has taken students to London, England, to see the roots of some of history’s most renowned plays, playwrights, and theatres. The art department has also taken trips to Europe to explore museums displaying some of the most historical works of art in the world, in cities such as Amsterdam and Paris.

The communications department has visited multiple locations within Europe for students to present original research at international conferences. In 2014, the department attended conferences in Greece, Croatia and Malta.

Senior communications student Jacob Dowell presented at the Maltese conference, and felt that the experience was uniquely beneficial by being out of the States.

“I want to go into international PR, so it helps with that facet of my degree,” Dowell said. “And a lot of PR is research based, so I have a whole semester of doing that process.”

Many of the departments are planning more trips in the near future. The Spanish department is returning to Costa Rica, and Hennessy is leading a trip to Tusson, France, to do restoration work on cultural heritage sites. The communications department is also returning abroad, and will be visiting Canada, Iceland and the Netherlands this May.

Some of the students that have come through Ellis’ office, such as Poirier and Dowell, enjoyed their time abroad enough that they are returning to enroll in a second trip this summer. The art department frequently brings students to museums in New York City, and many other departments take students to present at national conferences.

Ellis stresses that while safety is her biggest concern as a director, ensuring that students have a good time abroad is a high priority for her.

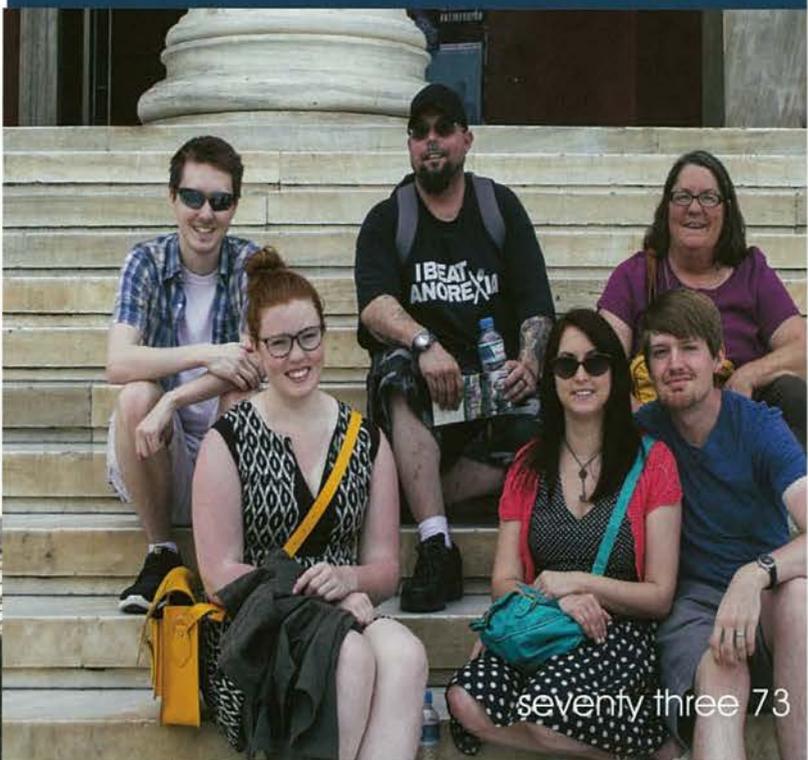
“My goals, any time a student group goes, individual or otherwise: I want them to have an excellent educational experience,” Ellis said. “I want them to have fun while they’re doing it, I want them to be safe and I want them to want to go again.”



[ Above ] Dr. Hennessey’s French students enjoy a meal in St. Etienne, France. The trip immersed students in the French language and culture.

[ Bottom Left ] Students visit the Acropolis in Athens, Greece as part of a 17 day tour of Europe. Students participated in the 12th Annual Conference on Mass Media and Communication while there.

[ Below ] Journalism students visit the National Archeological Museum in Athens, Greece. During their trip, they visited five different countries over 19 days.





Candy (Andy Tyhurst) takes a nap in the bunkhouse while George (Steve Catron), Slim (Daniel Montgomery) and Whit (Jesse Ewart) play cards. "Of Mice and Men" was Missouri Western's first theatre production of the 2014-2015 season.

# Of Mice and Men

A crowd gathered in the evening to watch the sun set over a quiet stream. The scenery becomes washed in a velvet glow, and crickets and nocturnal creatures awakened and can be heard stirring in the brush. One could truly be immersed in the environment, which is exactly what the lighting and sound designers of Missouri Western's production of "Of Mice and Men" set out to accomplish.

John Steinbeck's iconic, literary classic opened the theatre season in Potter Hall on Oct. 3, 2014, and ran for two weekends.

Assistant Professor of Theatre and Cinema Dallas Henry directed the small cast of nine university actors, which included seasoned theatre veterans and new faces alike. The play, a story of two migrants workers looking to one day finance their own ranch, is one that Henry has been wanting to produce for a very long time.

"It's one of my favorite plays, probably in my top five," Henry said. "It's one of those that I've been trying to do every year since I've been here."

Steinbeck's drama brought a change of pace to Missouri Western's theatre. The past few seasons have seen an array of musicals and comedies, so Henry was excited to take another approach.

"It just seemed like the right year and the right fit to do it," Henry said. "It seems like one of those plays that hadn't been done before. We've done a lot of comedies, so it's nice for me to direct something that's not a comedy or a musical and show something different."

What was shown was, as Henry would describe it, "a true acting piece." The small cast allowed the actors to work more closely than ever, and receive greater attention and scrutiny from the director. As a result, three of the nine cast members were nominated for the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship, an honored distinction.

The performance received continued recognition when it was chosen to grace a national stage in Bloomington, Minnesota, to a packed house of approximately 1,000 people. Missouri Western's production was the sole selection out of 75 total candidates for this honor.

Another honor the production received was an award for its accomplishment in sound design. Scenes in the play fluidly shifted from daylight to dusk, with the changes reflected in the ambient sounds and stage lighting.

But innovative design and standout acting are nothing without a great story to support them. The classic tale “Of Mice and Men” is an enthralling and heartbreaking story that draws viewers in with its developed and relatable characters. Missouri Western senior Steve Catron recognized that potential when he took on one of the two leading roles, as George Milton.

“It’s the first time Missouri Western has done, at least since I’ve been here, a dramatic show that the audience can take something away from,” Catron said. “This one is intense and existential, so you can have a cinematic view, as well as an interpersonal view of it.”

Living up to the legacy of a literary classic can be a daunting task, but the cast and crew gained reassurance after a visit from Dr. Brian Railsback, a professor of English at Western Carolina University and a Steinbeck scholar.

Railsback shared his views and interpretations of key scenes and characters at a pre-show lunch, where he also applauded the production, complimenting the cast and crew on a job well done.

Critics and competitions aside, Missouri Western’s production of “Of Mice and Men” was just as well received by their audiences each night as an accurate and compelling representation of a story many had grown up with.

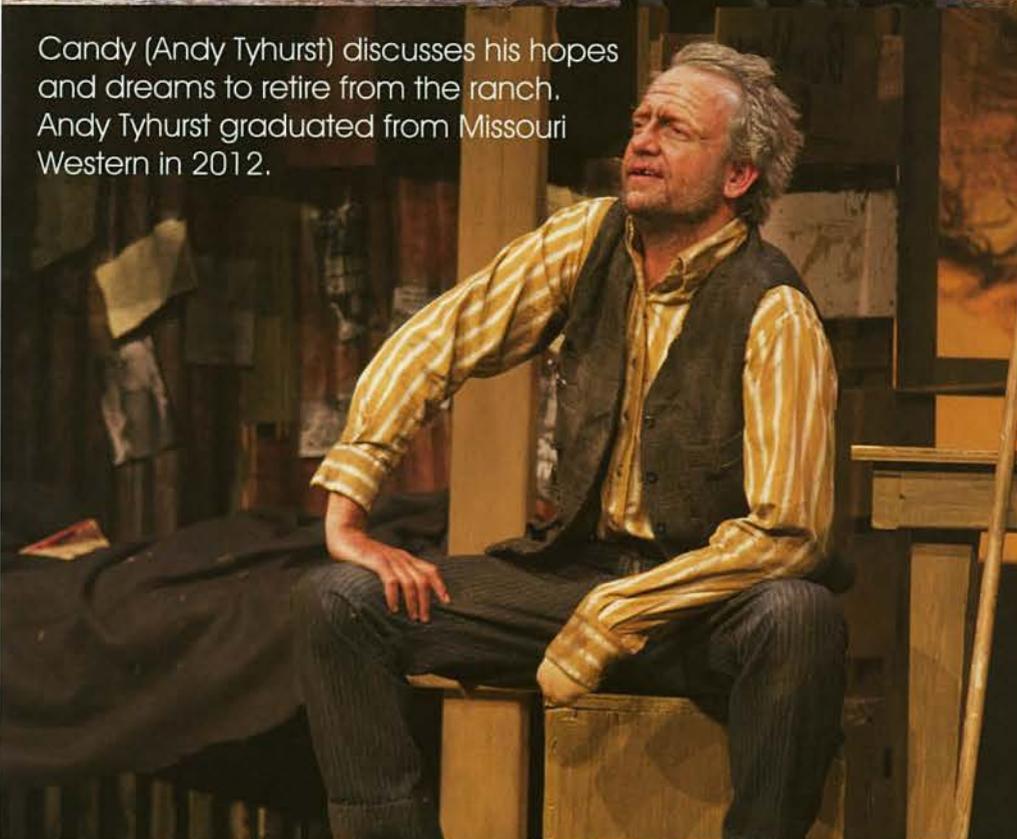
“I’ve seen it done before a few times, I’ve read the screenplay and the book in high school,” audience member Lee Carter said. “This definitely lived up to my expectations.”

[ Story, Photos & Design: Jeni Swope ]

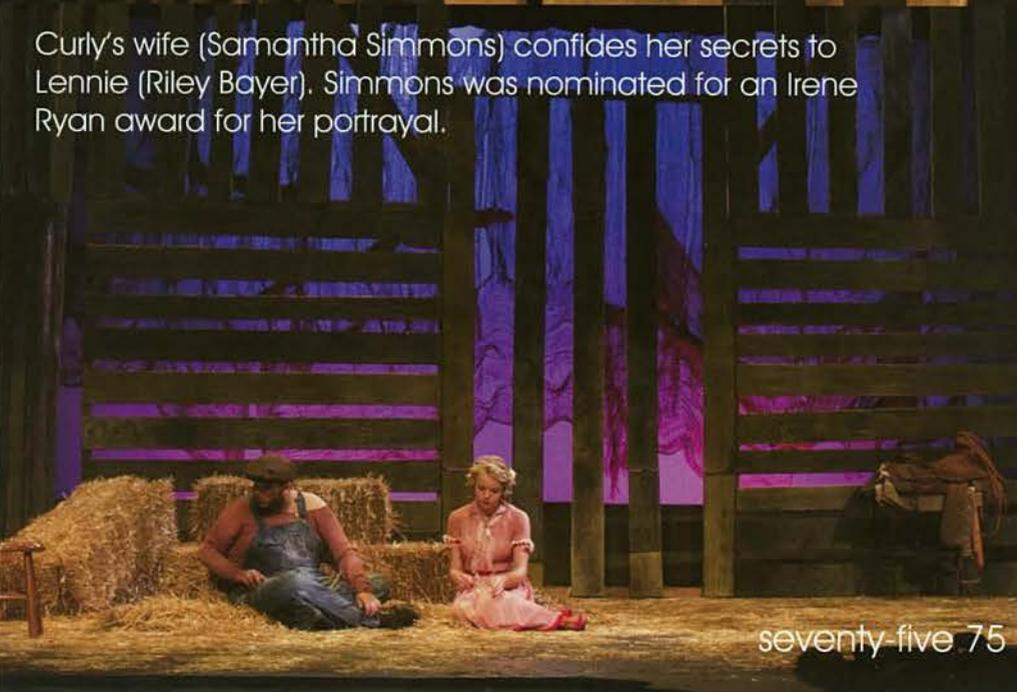
George (Steve Catron) and Lennie (Riley Bayer) cool down after being berated by a ranch hand. Bayer looked to his five year old nephew for inspiration for the role.



Candy (Andy Tyhurst) discusses his hopes and dreams to retire from the ranch. Andy Tyhurst graduated from Missouri Western in 2012.



Curly’s wife (Samantha Simmons) confides her secrets to Lennie (Riley Bayer). Simmons was nominated for an Irene Ryan award for her portrayal.



The pirates return to claim Frederic (Matt Ulmer) as one of them. "The Pirates of Penzance" was the second production of the 2014-2015 season.



# The Pirates of Penzance

A band of orphaned pirates, a major general with eight beautiful daughters and a group of policemen with more dance steps than courage all sailed onto stage in "The Pirates of Penzance" at Missouri Western.

The second theatre production of the season ran from Nov. 13-16 in Potter Hall. "The Pirates of Penzance: or The Slave of Duty," was directed by theatre, cinema and dance department chair Don Lillie.

The story begins with Frederic on his 21st birthday, on

Frederic (Matt Ulmer) accepts his fate of piracy and says his goodbyes to Mabel (Lauren Bergman). This was Matt Ulmer's first college production.



which he is given the choice to finally end his indenture with a group of pirates. As a slave to his sense of duty, he concludes he is obligated to put an end to piracy, though he gets distracted at the first sight of a beautiful woman named Mabel.

"The Pirates of Penzance" was written as an operetta by the famed Victorian duo of W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, and takes a satirical stance against nobility. Director Don Lillie's vision for the production was to stay true to the era of the play, which is considered to be the birthplace of the contemporary musical genre.

"Nothing's realistic at all," Lillie said. "It has this whimsical fantasy about it, because that's the way it was. If Gilbert and Sullivan walked in with their bag of popcorn, they'd be very comfortable."

While the approach to the play was classical, modern audiences enjoyed it just the same. Jessica Walter, a junior English education major, found herself enamored by the play's authenticity.

"I think they kept it very contemporary so that people who don't normally like opera can enjoy it," Walter said. "I actually thought it was really fun and I enjoyed seeing so many familiar and new faces."



# or The Slave of Duty

The play featured a host of returning favorites, such as associate professor Tee Quillin as Major General Stanley, returning actress Lauren Bergman as his impressionable daughter Mabel and junior theatre student Thomas Delgado as the police constable.

One newcomer to Missouri Western's stage was vocal performance major Matt Ulmer in the leading role of Frederic. The young actor stated that he found inspiration in his character's noble pursuit of his goals.

"Frederic is a soft-hearted person, and he's always honest," Ulmer said. "He'll go to great lengths, no matter what the consequences are, to follow his heart and his sense of duty."

Unfortunately for Frederic, his heart and his sense of duty didn't always align. Missouri Western's production focused on these contradictions, and exploited the conflicts and laughs they created.

Such a vast array of characters and absurd dilemmas helped the play cast a wide net that reeled in audiences of all interests. Theatre goers of all ages enjoyed a fun-filled evening of song and dance, brought to them under the banner of the recently formed School of Fine Arts.

In addition to uniting audiences, the School of

Fine Arts united theatre, dance, orchestral and vocal performance majors together in one production. This unification, along with its community appeal, were both factors in the play selection process.

"We asked ourselves, what could we give the community that is good for them: fun, wholesome and educational?" Lillie said. "And that's our mission with the school, isn't it?"

[ Story, Photos & Design : Jeni Swope ]

The policemen prepare to stand up to the pirates with their song and dance. The production mixed student talent from opera, orchestra and dance.



# Three Days of Rain

In the spring of 2014, the search began for a student candidate to direct one of the 2014-2015 productions. After conducting extensive research and demonstrating the dedication of a true director, senior theatre and cinema major Christian Allison was chosen to direct his selection “Three Days of Rain” on the stage of Kemper Recital Hall.

Allison picked “Three Days of Rain” for its unique act structure and use of characters, which Allison saw as a worthwhile challenge for a beginning director.

Allison put together his cast and his crew from a pool of his fellow students, most of which he had already worked alongside on other projects and productions. Making the leap from peer to director wasn’t as difficult as some may imagine.

“For me, it wasn’t a harsh transition,” Allison said. “It was actually a pretty great transition. We all had a mutual respect for each other, and a mutual feeling that we wanted to get this done right.”

Allison’s cast was built of three Missouri Western students playing two roles each. In the first act, three grown children try to discern the actions and motivations of their parents. In the second act, the actors switch roles to portray the parents 35 years earlier, revealing an entirely different story than the one their children believed to be true.



Walker (Riley Bayer) reads a passage to Nan (Kira Williams) from their father’s diary. “Three Days of Rain” was Williams’ first full length college production at Missouri Western.



Pip (Brian Duskey) and Nan (Kira Williams) bicker over the decision in Nan's father's will. Duskey and Williams acted together in a student directed short play in the fall of 2014.

Actress Kira Williams, a junior theatre major, enjoyed the dynamics of the two roles, and saw a benefit in the experience she gained portraying them.

"I played two very different characters, and had to switch back and forth," Williams said. "In the future it will definitely help me whenever I have a difficult role, because I've played back on that and I can do it."

Three Days of Rain showcased acting talent through its character driven narrative, but was supported by strong design as well. Chris Rayle, a senior in the theatre and cinema department, designed the sound based on the idea of creating an immersive environment for the actors, as well as steering the mood of the audience.

"It's not every man for himself, but everybody comes to see the people on the stage," Rayle said. "How can we enhance their performances even more? Everything I did had to fit with whatever Christian was having his actors do."

The team-effort mentality behind the scenes of Three Days of Rain lent itself to developing a cohesive, unified production. The play garnered significant praise peppered with some constructive feedback from two respondent professors who were invited from other universities to critique the show.

After running for two weekends, Three Days of Rain closed on February 21, and the cast and crew left Kemper Recital Hall with a sense of pride over what they had attained together.

"I feel like, for my first show, I felt really impressed with what I was able to accomplish," Allison said. "Especially the size of the show, and for being a student who's never taken on a two act play before."

[ Story, Photos & Design:  
Jeni Swope ]



[ Story, Photos & Design: Jeni Swope ]

# Urinetown The Musical

A drama, an operetta, a student production and now a modern American musical made for an exciting theatre season. “Urinetown: The Musical” took the stage in Potter Hall this April, ending the academic year with satire and comedy.

The musical was set in the not-too-distant future, in a world where a severe drought has left water reserves empty and the economy in shambles. To recuperate, all citizens must use public toilets and pay a costly entry fee, or else risk being taken away to a mysterious place known only as Urinetown.

The satirical nature of the musical touched on a range of topics, from capitalism and bureaucracy to Broadway musicals themselves. Lead actor Jacob Mills, a senior music major, felt that the undertones of the play reflect reality in a dark way.

“Our director, Tee Quillin, enjoyed pushing that to its full potential,” Mills said. “It is a comedy, but it has those

dark qualities to it that are things that happen in our normal day lives, we just don’t necessarily realize they are happening or we just shrug it off.”

In addition to being satire, the play also serves as a parody of other Broadway musicals, being highly aware that it’s a musical itself, and even poking fun at its own unmarketable name, “Urinetown.”

Going to see a theatre production with a title such as “Urinetown,” it’s hard to imagine what to expect. Fortunately, many audience members, such as digital animation senior Amanda Francis, were pleasantly surprised by the cleverness of the production.

“It was fantastic,” Francis said. “My favorite parts were all of the little subtle things going on in the background. Those really made it for me.”

Some of the other fine details were included in an intricate set featuring multiple levels, an old car and a digital projection screen. The crew worked tirelessly

[ Above ] Hope Cladwell (Abby Sexton) reacts to Bobby Strong’s (Jacob Mills) description of life in the lower class. “Urinetown” debuted at Missouri Western on April 2 and ran through April 12.



to build the set during the weeks of preproduction, despite facing a tragedy in the department.

Theatre and cinema department chair Don Lillie unexpectedly passed away this spring, leaving the department in a state of shock. Lillie was the set designer for “Urinetown,” and above all, was well loved by everyone in the department.

The entire cast and crew, including freshman theatre major Abby Sexton, felt a change in atmosphere without Lillie backstage.

“It was really hard on a lot of us for a while, but unfortunately, as life goes on you have to move on with it,” Sexton said. “We of course dedicated the show to him, and I’m sure he was up there smiling down on all of us as we performed.”

Lillie’s passing motivated the crew to work even harder and unified the cast in his memory. This union was visible in the chemistry present between the actors on stage, who delivered performances worthy of a standing ovation at the end of the night.

“I would say we were all pretty closely knit, especially going through something so traumatic,” Sexton said. “It really brought us together as a family.”

[ Above ] Bobby Strong (Jacob Mills) and Hope Cladwell (Abby Sexton) embrace in the midst of a rebellion against her father’s company. The musical took a satirical look at life during a severe drought.



[ Bottom ] The Rebel Poor end a song in a flourish. The play won two Tony Awards in 2002, for Best Book of a Musical and Best Original Score.

# Crawling to new heights

## Griffon Cavers explore cave at Osage Beach

Missouri Western offers an unusual, yet thrilling experience in our health, physical education and recreation (HPER) department. It is called Cave Exploring, one of the many options of lifetime activity courses available students can take.

Fun fact, Missouri is known as “The Cave State.” Many of its caves have yet to be explored while the rest are for exploring and research purposes. Western takes advantage of this beauty by taking students to these locations through courses like this one and

of the Ozarks and had a cave exploring experience as one of the recreations. That is where he had his first caving experience and fell in love with it. He learned a substantial amount and wanted to share this experience with his biology students. He quickly made arrangements to see if he could sit in on one of the Cave Exploring lecture nights in order to ensure he would learn all the fundamentals and how to cave explore safely.

The instructor of the course at the time wanted to retire his position and give it to Ashley. This isn't what Ashley had in mind.

Ashley Eversole crawls through the mud at the Skagg's Cave. Missouri Western students began exploring the caves of Missouri in 1994.



“I wanted someone to hold my hand and tell me everything so that I could then safely take students in,” Ashley said.

Ashley pondered on it and took the opportunity. He didn't know exactly how he was going to construct this course, but he had an idea. He quickly gained popularity from students and faculty after only teaching the course for a short time.

“Immediately word got out and I was pushed to teach it the very next summer and fall,” Ashley said. “Biology students would harass me to teach it until I said yes.”

also in the biology department. Ironically, there aren't many courses taught in the region, not even in the nation, that allows students to explore these caves.

Dr. David Ashley arrived at Western in 1983 when the Cave Exploring course was in progress. He began as a biology professor looking to learn and explore more than what he had already experienced.

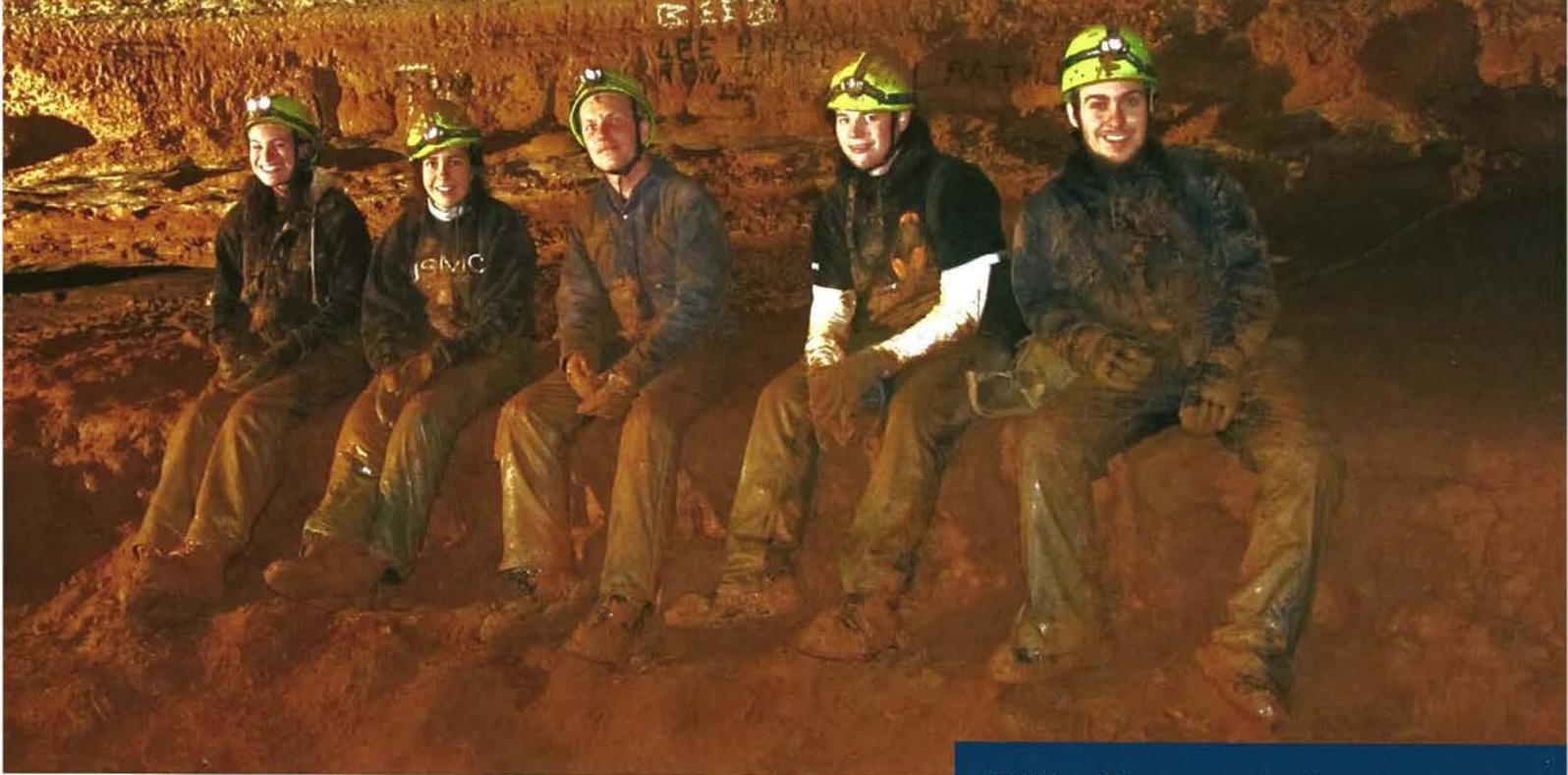
“The more one learns, the more one knows how little they know,” Ashley said.

In 1990, Ashley attended the Biology Honor Society Convention, he and a group of students traveled to the Lake

Students of all of majors find interest in this course and sign up ready for a vigorous and educational experience. It consists of three Tuesday night lectures. During these lecture nights, students learn



The Beginning Cave Exploring class stands triumphant at the end of the expedition. The class spent three weeks prior to the trip learning safety tips and ecology of caves.



what to look for such as bats, salamanders, crickets, stalactites, stalagmites, etc. These lectures are very informational and are intended to prepare students for the trip to Osage Beach, Missouri.

Former participant Jacob Mills had an overall great time with Ashley and his fellow classmates on the trip to Osage Beach.

“Since I had been on a similar trip, I kind of knew what was going to happen but the first time I went on a trip like this it caught me off guard a bit,” Mills said. “It’s nothing like commercial caves, there aren’t any staircases and pretty lights you can follow, it is just whole lot of mud.”

The course requires students to prepare for a great amount of physical activity. The inside of the cave lives in complete darkness. With only having a head lamp for light source, students have to be careful where they are walking and make sure to stay with the team at all times.

“A mile in a cave is totally different than a mile on flat ground, and that can become very taxing,” Mills said.

Another student of the cave exploring class, Jordan Meyer, was pretty content and satisfied with what he has learned through the long lecture nights and now is anticipating the kinesthetic learning of the course.

“I’m prepared for it, yes,” Meyer said. “In terms of mentally, I know I’m going to get dirty, but probably following the trip I’m going to be like there is no way in hell I was prepared for that much.”

Following the recent trip, Gracia Pinzino and Charity Paige greatly enjoyed the caving trip. They had two totally different experiences, but overall, their success

was the same. Pinzino had a few obstacles along the way, but she quickly adapted and pushed through the challenging aspects.

“I wanted to challenge myself to try something new and different that was outside of my comfort zone,” Pinzino said. “Although it was very challenging, I loved the comradery and help I received from the team. We all stayed near each other and helped each throughout the cave and that was something I really cherished.”

Paige on the other hand moved through the cave with ease.

“It was really fun to climb up and get around everywhere and crawl on the ground,” Paige said. “Me and like three other guys had a little race to get back and I was the first one back. It was so much fun.”

The ecology and exploring of a cave is an educational experience students just can’t forget. Whether you are a music major or an art major or just general studies major, there is always room to step outside of your norms and challenge yourself with something that you never would have done before.

Griffon Cavers rest after a long day of cave exploring. Students walked, hiked and even crawled through the mud to reach their destination.

[ Story: Ronald Baker ]

[ Photos: Submitted ]

[ Design: Jessika Eidson ]



# A day in the life of a Missouri Western nursing student

**N**ursing is a popular major offered at Missouri Western State University. It is a major that requires a lot of dedication and perseverance, something that junior Sharlene Ackman has down to a science.

Born in Corpus Christi, Texas, Ackman moved to Lenexa, Kansas after four years. She spent most of her life there before coming to St. Joseph, when deciding which college to attend. While she initially had a few in

mind, she chose Western due to it being closer to her family and being much more affordable.

When she came to Western, she joined Alpha Omega to get to know more people. While she had never lived in St. Joseph before, she said that she enjoys it. She was also an undecided student for a time.

Eventually she decided that she wanted to be a part of the physical therapy assistant program. She shadowed

...bs for a while in preparation to apply, but when she applied she didn't get in. Rather than taking this as a defeat, Ackman felt that it was a sign that being a Physical Therapy Assistant wasn't what she was meant to do.

From this, she turned her attention to nursing. Sharlene has had an interest in how the human body functions ever since she was little, but she says that it's not the only reason she decided to be a nurse.

"I've always wanted to help people," Ackman said. "That's the basics of nursing, having that compassion and caring for others."

While Ackman enjoys nursing, she admits that it can be time consuming and stressful sometimes. The major requires an average of a C on tests and showcases many different fields of learning such as comprehensive tests and clinicals. ATI's are a standard test, while clinicals are more hands on. Ackman personally enjoys clinicals due to her being a more hands on type of learner. No matter what it is however, she gives it all she has.

"She motivates me," junior Holly Hoover said. "Sharlene gets things done."

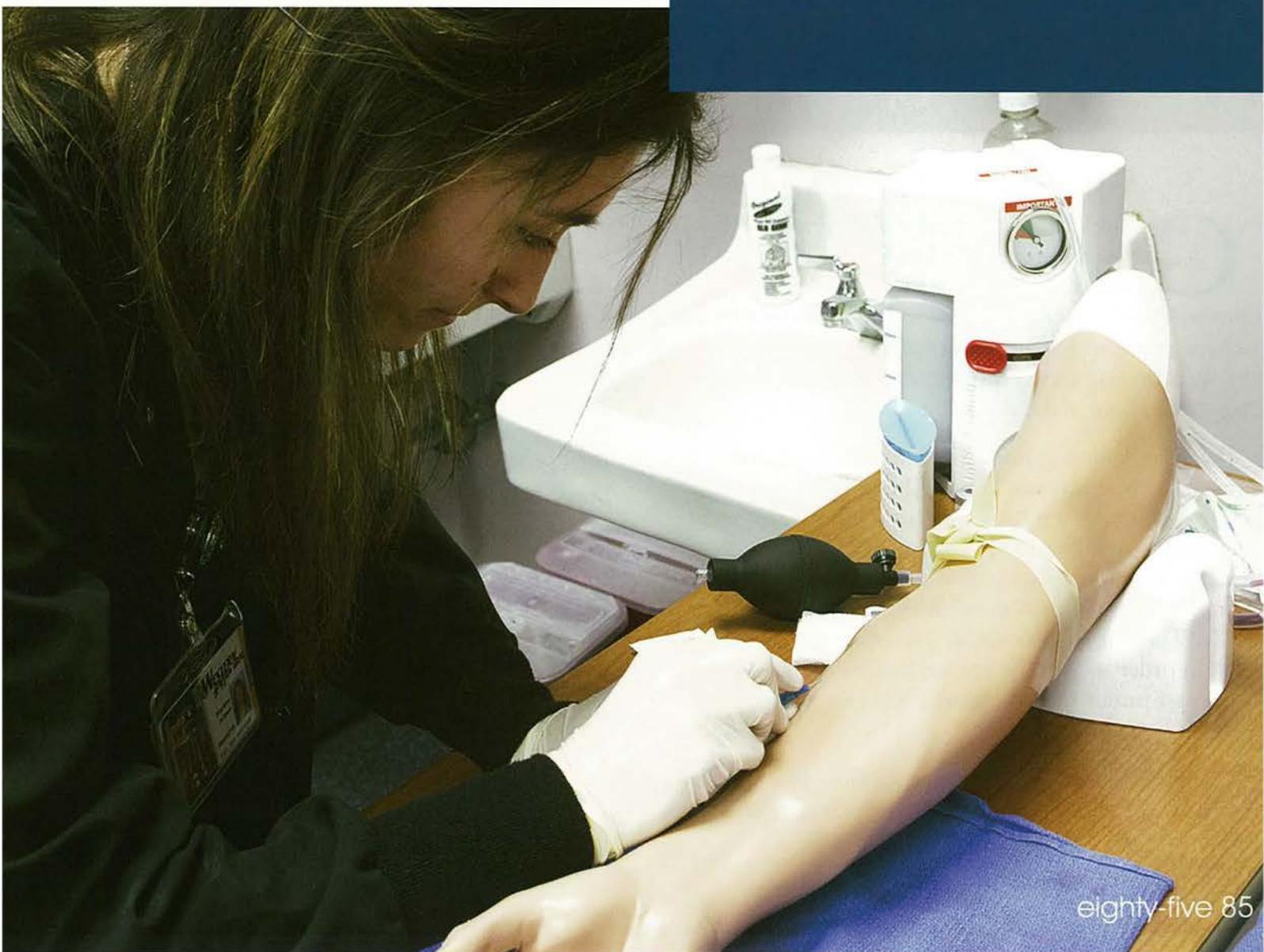
While Ackman is only a second semester nurse in the program, she shows massive potential in the field. She's driven and loves every bit of nursing despite its stresses at times. Aspiring nursing students would do good to take notice of her traits and push to be just as passionate about the major as Ackman is. She's only in the beginning of her nursing education, but the future is bright and she's ready to take it head on.

[ Story & Photos: Thomas Marshall ]

[ Design: Jessika Eidson ]

[ Left ] Nursing student, Sharlene Ackman practices putting an IV in a patients arm. Clinicals were a major part of the nursing program at Missouri Western.

[ Below ] Sharlene Ackman and Holly Hoover practice putting an IV in a patient. Nursing student worked side by side throughout the year.





[ Story: Crystal Crawford ]  
 [ Photos: Andy Garrison ] [ Design: Jodi Stamba ]

**G**riffon Update, a broadcast program run by students and led by Dr. Robert Nulph of the Communications and Journalism Department, aims to keep Western students and staff up-to-date on the current news, sports and information about Western and the surrounding area. The program is offered through a two-credit-hour class, JOU 214.

Though the first episode aired on channel 39 on November 6, it was not exactly the first ever episode. *Griffon Update* is a resurrection of a similar program that aired in the late 1990s and early 2000s called *Western Weekly*. The first episode of *Western Weekly* aired October 3, 1994, but was eventually cancelled in the early 2000s. The campus has decided to bring the program back in order to give the convergent media students the broadcast outlet that the Journalism Department has been lacking.

Unlike *Western Weekly*, which ran more like a news program and was more reading-based, *Griffon Update* is more creative.

The program focuses on packages, rolls of video footage that support the story and which are narrated over by the respective reporter. Two hosts provides introductions for each package, as well as the intro and outro of each episode. Each episode was introduced from a different location around campus. So far, the show has been hosted from the original news studio located in the IMC (Instructional Media Center), the atrium to Eder Hall and the atrium to Agenstein. In the future, Nulph hopes to expand to shooting intros off campus in order to feature different areas of Saint Joseph as well.

The campus already offers *Griffon News* and *The Griffon* yearbook. Both publications provide students with experience in print and photography, but neither publication gives the students the opportunity to work in front of a live camera.

Katelyn Canon, a senior at Western and executive producer of *Griffon Update*, views the class as a unique experience that the program has desperately needed.

“To be a student in the convergent media program, you need to have that solid foundation of broadcast,” Canon said. As convergent media students, we learn print and layout and we’re learning how to do multimedia pieces, which really need to be broadcast quality.”

She stressed that the industry is moving in such a direction that anyone entering the field is expected to be as well-rounded as possible.

Andy Garrison, one of *Griffon Update*’s reporters, thinks the program will add an element that will be respected by other schools and the industry.

“Being allowed to fail is a big part of that, too,” Garrison said. “Because then you get to experience that failure and when it hurts a little bit, you don’t want to do it again. So you learn to fix your mistakes on your own, on your feet, and a lot quicker than you would if you had somebody that was just a professor telling you how to do it.”

Nulph hopes the program is eventually seen as the broadcast show for the journalism program, as well as becoming a platform to showcase the work done by the students of Western. He directs the class in such a way that no one specializes in just one area, but learns every part of the production process.

“They’re not just learning how to write for a newspaper,” Nulph said. “They’re learning how to write for everything. And they’re learning how to shoot video, and edit video, and work with audio and all that good stuff.”

Most of the students in the class, including Canon and Garrison, also work for the *Griffon News*, Western’s weekly newspaper.

“It’s time consuming, but it’s the practical side of journalism, where they really produce things they can put on their resume,” Nulph said.

Canon elaborated on just how time-intensive each episode can be, saying that each 3-5 minute package can take hours to make, which doesn’t include the amount of time it takes to transition the clips together into one cohesive episode, which runs just around 30 minutes. It is stressful, she admits, but it is one of the best experiences of her life.

The second episode of *Griffon Update* aired on channel 39 just before Fall Break, and a third is in the works. The most current episode can be seen on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at noon, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. Current and past episodes can also be found through the Yearbook website and Facebook page, as well as vimeo.com.



Dr. Robert Nulph goes over the script with anchors, Nerissa Lee and Thomas Delgado. The first episode of *Griffon Update* was shot in the Instruction Media Center Studio.



Executive Producer Katelyn Canon counts down the anchor’s cue. Roles on the set were often rotated between students.



Crew members Daniel Cobb and Mason Marshall set up the teleprompter. Each episode of *Griffon Update* was produced by students.

# And That's the Way It Is

## Douglas Brinkley sheds new light on Walter Cronkite's legacy.

**E**nthusiasm. It's one of the values held by Missouri Western, and it is one way to describe Dr. Douglas Brinkley's speech at the 21st Annual R. Dan Boulware Convocation on Critical Issues held Nov. 4, 2014.

Brinkley, the New York Times' best selling biographer of "Cronkite", focused his speech on Cronkite's life, emphasizing on Cronkite's personality and his continuing efforts to become the successful journalist he is known as today. He encouraged students to learn from the late news anchor, to strive to be the best in their career field with a high moral standard and not to give up.

"You don't make it to the top of any field unless you're willing to fight for that," Brinkley said. "You've got to have an incredible tenacity to be the best at what you do."

Brinkley spoke without notes, vividly telling stories such as Cronkite's coverage of the Kennedy assassination and the New London Texas school explosion, which had students, such as senior Jarren Blakely, captivated.

"He did say he wanted to be very enthusiastic and he came across that way," Blakely said. "It was one of the better [Convocations]. I think he was more engaging and less lecturing, as his speech was more storytelling."

[ Below ] Dr. Douglas Brinkley encourages students to strive for success in their career field during his convocation speech on the life and ethics of the late Walter Cronkite. The historian won the Ann M. Sperber Biography Award for his biography, Cronkite.





Above ] Hundreds of students look on as Convocation sponsor Dan Boulware introduces this year's speaker, Dr. Douglas Brinkley. Boulware helped launch the Convocation on Critical Issues series in 1993.

Dan Boulware, the Convocation namesake and sponsor, introduced the animated historian by discussing the value of history to students today. He relates the inspiration for the series to speeches he had heard by similar famous figures when he was a student himself, and hopes students will take insight from the topics covered.

“First and foremost, this is for the students,” Boulware said. “I heard Bobby Kennedy speak just before his assassination and I heard Nelson Rockefeller. Those experiences were ingrained in me, and they were a part of the driving force of why we do this.”

While the majority of the speech was about Cronkite's life and experiences as a journalist, Brinkley tied it all together with how Cronkite's integrity and values should matter to students today. Brinkley stressed to students the value Cronkite placed on facts over timeliness in order to build a career rather than a moment.

The second point he stressed was the importance of history and appreciating the time we live in while

recognizing the critical issues of the past. These issues, as Brinkley pointed out, are reflected throughout Cronkite's career.

“The point of history, for Walter Cronkite, was to remind us that our own times, your times today, are not uniquely oppressive,” Brinkley said at the end of his speech.

Brinkley took a moment to thank the University for inviting him to speak on Cronkite's 98th birthday, and remarked how fortunate Saint Joseph is for having an honored figure like Cronkite as a native son. His speech on Cronkite's character resonated with students, forewarning them of what could be lost in a modern media environment focusing on celebrity and internet journalism.

[ Photos & Story: Jeni Swope ]  
[ Design: Bryant Scott ]

“You don't make it to the top of any field unless you're willing to fight...”

# WINTER COMMENCEMENT

December 13, 2014

[ Story: Jessika Eidson ]  
[ Photos: Jeni Swope ]  
[ Design: Jodi Stamback ]





[ Top Left ] CSB graduates enter Looney Arena. Around 300 students graduated from Missouri Western during the 2015 Winter Commencement ceremony. [ Top Right ] Karen Graves receives her honorary doctorate for community service. Missouri Western honored Graves for her work in the St. Joseph community.

On the morning of December 13, approximately 300 Missouri Western graduates began the next phase of their life while reflecting on their time at the university.

After years of hard work, students were eager to cross the stage and shake hands with President Robert Vartabedian, while receiving their degrees. Fellow graduates, friends and family gathered in the Looney Complex to celebrate the commencement and the achievements of the class of 2014.

Kenny Thompson, a non-traditional student, received his degree in criminal justice. During his four years at Missouri Western, he learned the value of his education through his classes. After a decade between his high school and college careers, Thompson found his place amongst his younger peers as he held his degree.

“I was anxious to get it,” Thompson said. “It's been a long time coming.”

For some graduates, like Makia Irvin who received her biology degree, Missouri Western was a place they learned to call home.

“I think campus life is important,” Irvin said. “It was a great experience for me. I liked living in the dorms and meeting new people.”

During the ceremony, Karen Graves received an honorary doctorate for her service to St. Joseph and Missouri Western. Graves was a founder of several arts and history programs, including Trials West and the university's art society.

Having received her doctorate, Graves spoke to the graduates about her journey through public service and the importance of enthusiasm. Graves was followed by this year's commencement speaker, Dr. Brenda Blessing.

A Missouri Western professor of 28 years, Blessing was able to see some of her students off and give them a piece of wisdom. During her speech, she reflected on her own years in college and encouraged the class of 2014 to continue learning after their graduation.

“I urge our graduates here to regard the achievements we are marking not as the end, but rather a beginning, and a continuous process of learning,” Blessing said, quoting Nelson Mandela.

With degrees in hand, tassels turned to the right, and the head of the Griffon patted for luck, the fall class of 2014 exited the gymnasium as alumni of Missouri Western and ready to take on the future.

[ Bottom Left ] Dr. Jeanne Daffron delivers her opening remarks to the winter 2014 graduates. Daffron commended students on their hard work and achievements. [ Bottom Right ] Dr. Jonathan Rhoad leads the faculty processional to Looney Arena. Faculty members had the opportunity to witness former students receive their degrees.



# SPRING COMMENCEMENT

I came to Missouri Western with one goal in mind: to get my degree – to graduate. Coming here, I had absolutely no idea what I wanted to do with my life. I had plenty of interests – I still do – but when I found my calling at this university, I never would have expected how it would change me. My beliefs, my personality, my ability to look forward and not back. All of them were changed in positive ways, and to be able to walk onto that stage, to graduate in front of my family and friends was a truly humbling experience.

But before I marched into the gymnasium with the other graduates, I gathered with them across the hall to receive line-up information as well as general rules that accompanied the event. It was then that I saw them: friends whom I hadn't seen in months, years. We talked, congratulated each other, complained about how hot it was getting and how our tassels just wouldn't stay still. Then it occurred to me: I may not see these people ever again. And it always seemed to end the same way.

“Well, congratulations! See you later...”

As we began lining up, professors walked in, some

of them posing with students for pictures and wishing them luck on their future endeavors. Then we began moving toward the door, making our way into the gymnasium where we shook hands with our professors and advisors who had helped and guided us along the way. As we sat down, heads began turning every which way as every single person wearing a cap and gown looked to the stands to find where their families were seated. Struggling to find my mom and dad, I eventually turned back toward the stage to listen to the current speaker.

Speeches were given, and the president of the university took time to remind us of how special this day was, for we were the graduating class of 2015, the university's centennial year. The keynote speaker Esther George told each of us that hard work and determination would yield positive results when it came to our futures; with enough drive and passion, we would succeed.

As we each walked onstage to grab our diplomas, I looked out for a brief moment at the crowd of people, knowing that I had done it. I had graduated. That



Graduates pass their professors as they enter the ceremony. This spring, 508 undergraduate student and 44 graduate students received their degrees.



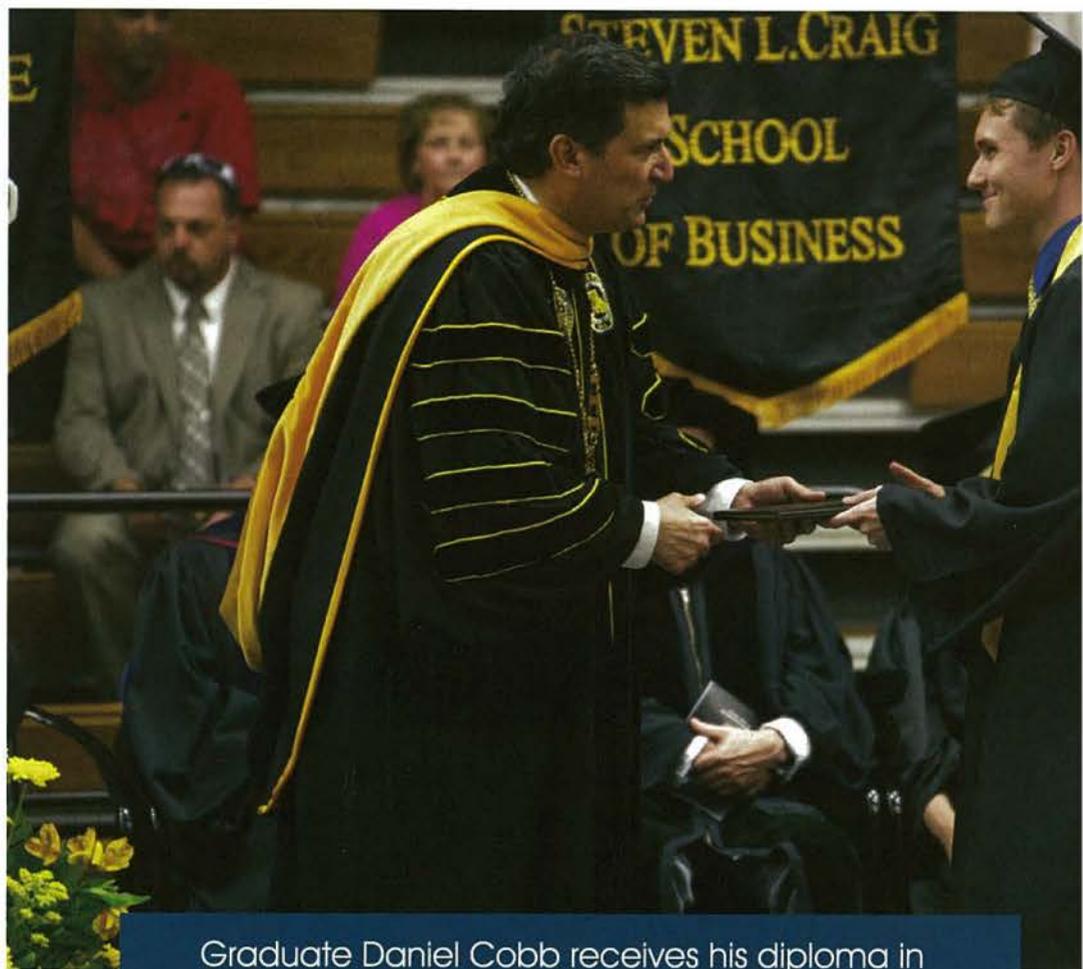
was my goal, and there I was, standing on a stage shaking the hand of Dr. Vartabedian, knowing that, through it all, I had succeeded.

From there, we rose out of our seats to a round of applause, and slowly made our way out of the gymnasium. With my previous attempts at finding my parents in the crowd proving fruitless, I gave it one last try, and on my way out, I found them. They were sitting on the upper rows, smiling and waving at me. They were proud at what I had accomplished. And so was I.

I walked out of the gymnasium congratulating friends as we made our way across the hall for the food and drink that was provided. We took pictures. We laughed. We hugged. We wished each other all of the luck in the world. And we said goodbye. After four years, we were done, and it was time to move forward.

It was time to go out into the world and make new goals, seek new opportunities with the knowledge that we had gained – that we had earned.

I came to Missouri Western with one goal in mind: to get my degree – to graduate. I came out on the other side with invaluable knowledge as well as friends whom I will never forget. Missouri Western has given me so much. Moreover, it's given me a future to look forward to – a future that seems to get brighter every day.



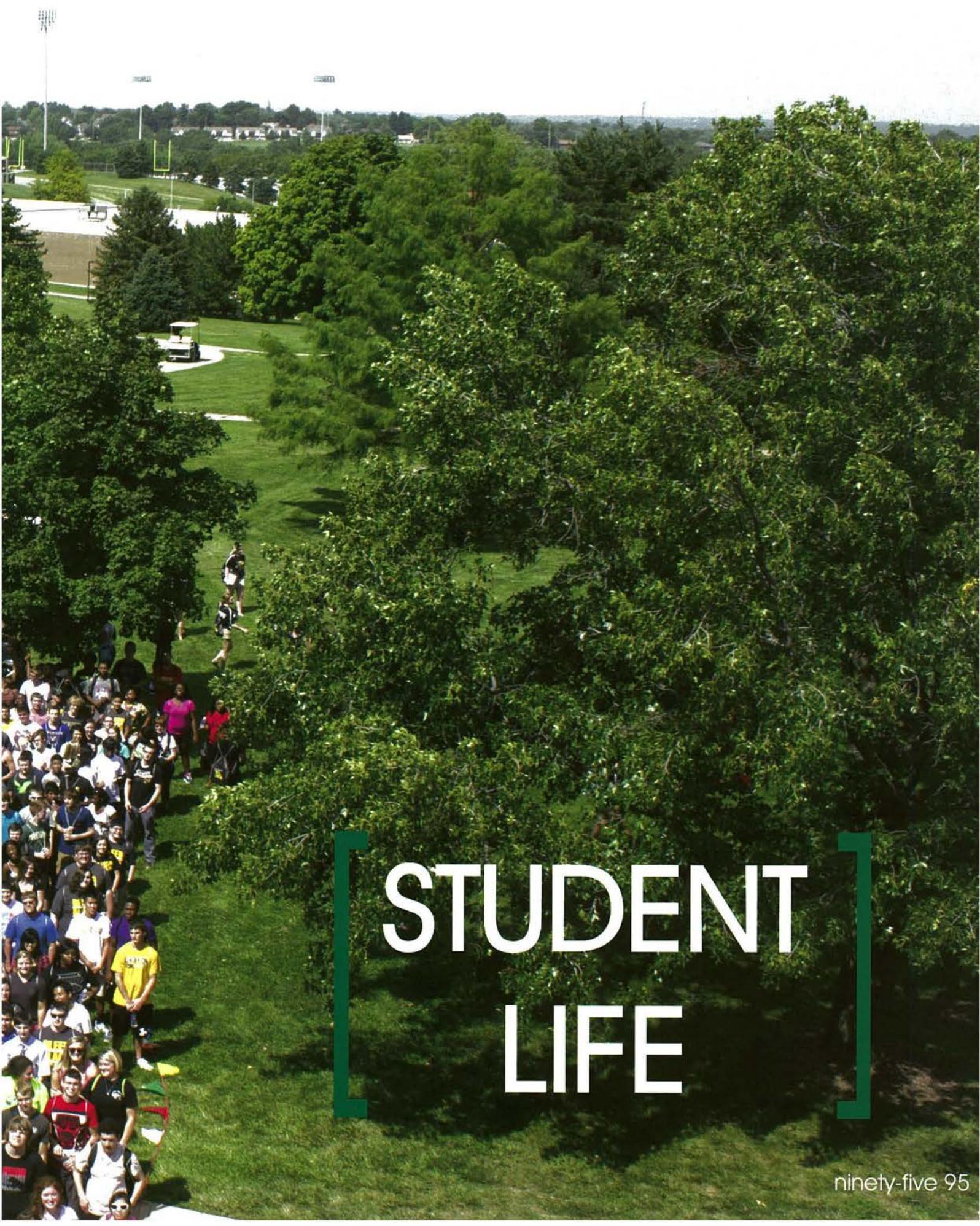
Graduate Daniel Cobb receives his diploma in convergent media studies. During his time here Cobb was very active in the Griffon News.

[ Story: Daniel Cobb ]  
 [ Photos: Jeni Swope ]  
 [ Design: Jessika Eidson ]



The 2014-2015 freshman class gathers under the clock tower for a class portrait. This year's incoming class is the largest class in Missouri Western's history.

[ Photo: Jeni Swope ]



# [ STUDENT LIFE ]

# TOGETHER AS ONE

Candlelight vigil brings students together in the wake of the events in Ferguson, Missouri

**D**uring the month of August, Missouri Western State University students came together for what came to be known as the Unity Vigil.

The event took place on a Monday right after classes started and was created as a remembrance to teenager Michael Brown, who was shot by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri. A large portion of the student body turned up to remember the life of Michael Brown and stand together in a protest for peace. The event included many speakers, being opened up by Vice President of Student Affairs Shana Meyer.

“Today I would like to express my sympathies to any of you who have been and continue to be affected by these tragic events,” Meyer said. “I voice my compassion for any members of our Griffon family from the St. Louis area.”

The vigil focused on the gathering of students who came out to grieve and join together. Many students from St. Louis were personally affected as well as those who have friends and family in the city. Speaker Robert Vardiman, a music business major, was from St. Louis and it was clear that he was affected as well.

Vardiman read Maya Angelou’s “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” before introducing the next speaker, Truman Middle School Principal Jason Callaway. Callaway spoke about the horror of recent events and how they needed to be dealt with peacefully.

“It’s up to us to make sure that we be proactive so that we can prevent critical situations like this,” Callaway said. “Each and every one of us has an innate ability to take it upon ourselves and be that person, to be that someone that does something.”

The vigil was ended when Latoya Fitzpatrick, coordinator for the Center of Multicultural Education, sang her rendition of amazing grace. The students then all lit candles and had a moment of silence for Michael Brown.

When all was said and done, it was a special moment to see. Western students were standing together in concern and outcry for their community. They want to work towards solving these problems and advancing as a society of people united. It was a day to mourn for the death of a teenage boy, but also a day to look forward to change in that we can all make a difference in helping to ensure that these situations don’t happen. Senior Eric Toliver believes that we should stand as one.

“We as a student body need to come together and help people anywhere in Missouri as much as we can,” Toliver said.

[ Story: Tommy Marshall & Elliot Swope ]

[ Photo: Jeni Swope ]

[ Design: Jodi Stamback ]



With some blood, a lot sweat and maybe even some tears, the Griffons were able to explore and give back to the world around them during the 2014 Homecoming Week.

Following the theme of "Griffons Around the World", Missouri Western bolted into the lively week with two races designed for runners to explore their campus. The Amazing Race asked participants to overcome amusing challenges, while the Relay Race Around the world questioned their knowledge of famous landmarks.

Tuesday and Wednesday gave Griffons the chance to participate in the Homecoming Blood Drive. Student organizations joined the Community Blood Center at St. Joseph to recruit donors throughout the event.

Friday night was perhaps the most event-filled evening of the week. Students were invited to the pep rally held in the GISC, which included a dance contest and crowning ceremony. Following the rally, students congregated behind the Baker Center to for a bonfire, hot dog eating contest and dance party.



# HOMECOMING

## FALL 2014

[ Story: Jessika Eidson ]  
[ Photos: Jodi Stamback ]  
[ Design: Bryant Scott ]

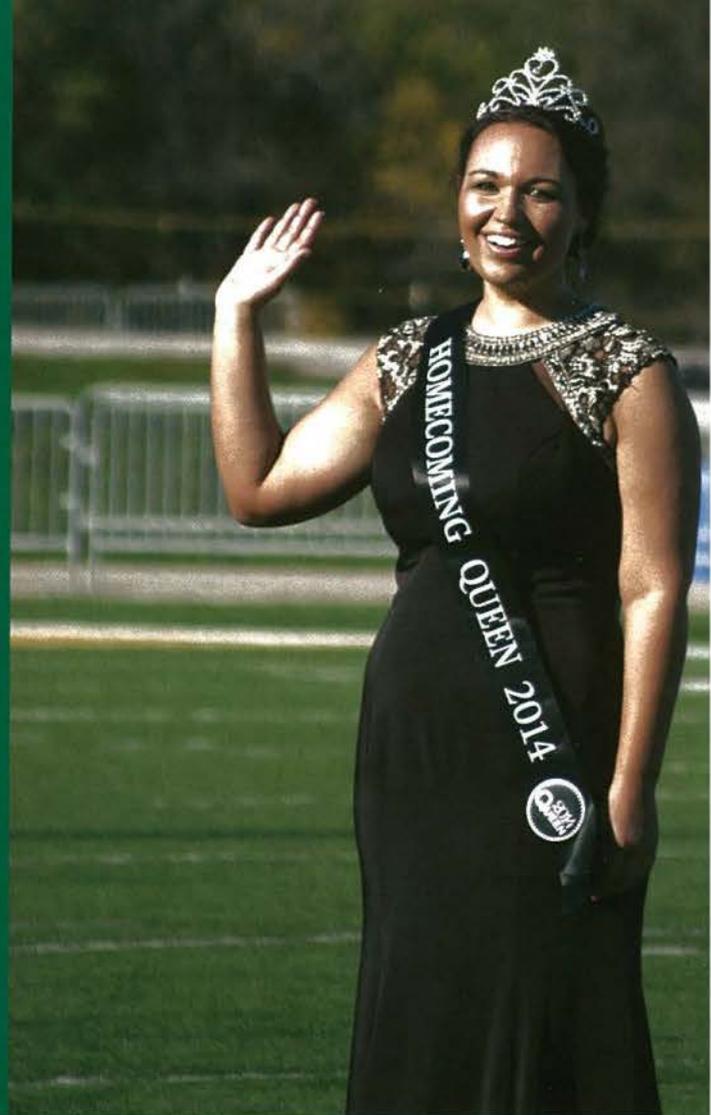
The next morning, the Griffons rose before the sun, preparing for the final day of Homecoming. After weeks of planning and engineering, a parade of floats made by student organizations migrated throughout the streets of St. Joseph. Directly following, a tailgate party was held in anticipation of the football game against Emporia State that afternoon.

Missouri Western, however, was defeated by Emporia State, along with the women's soccer team who lost to Central Missouri. Despite losing the Homecoming football game, the Griffons were able to claim victory as the women's volleyball team triumphed over both Missouri Southern and Central Oklahoma.

With a variety of lively events and opportunities, Missouri Western was able to host another fun-filled Homecoming week for 2014.

[ Right ] Kendra Greer waves to the crowd at the halftime presentation. Greer was named Homecoming Queen for the 2014-2015 school year.

[ Below ] Max the Griffon pumping up the crowd at the Homecoming football game. The Griffon has been the mascot of Western since 1918.



# Super Science Saturday

[ Story & Photos: Thomas Marshall ]

[ Design: Jeni Swope ]



Attendees hold a snake during Super Science Saturday. Many of the activities involved live animals such as snakes.

Science has been around since the beginning of time, but it hasn't always been considered the most interesting subject. Super Science Saturday at Missouri Western State University hopes to change that.

True to the name, the event takes place on a Saturday every year and is held in Agenstein Hall. Starting in the morning and ending sometime in the afternoon, attendees visit the different stations that are set up in classrooms around the building. Each room houses a different theme and attractions range from exhibits to presentations. A variety of topics are covered in the rooms such as

palentology, animatronics and chemistry.

The rooms had different exhibits for kids such as dinosaur bones, animal furs and live animals. They help add a visual element to the presentation while a speaker or volunteers relay information about the subject that is being covered. The goal is to prove that science can be fantastic and kids can have a great time while doing it.

"We have hundreds of people come in saying they're afraid of snakes, and by the time they leave they're holding them," Western alumni Julie Casey said. "I just love how it makes science accessible to kids."

Casey giving a presentation to kids at Super Science Saturday. He was one of the many teachers who presented that day.



Along with kids, their parents can have a great time too. Each room is set up to be interesting for people of any age so that parents can enjoy as well. They can learn about fish, air dynamics or how to put together a circuit board just as much as the kids can.

Overseeing the rooms were Western students and teachers. They showed families around and presented subjects up close to help kids get better involved. They volunteer their time the entire day to make sure it is a success. While it can be draining, they love every minute of it.

“We want to show them how interesting the world of mathematics and science really is,” junior Adam Hunt said. “If we can get them interested in any minute way then we’ve done something great for the community.”

While the majority of rooms were run by students and teachers, there were also several that featured outside guests, such as news stations or high school teachers.

At the end of the day, kids left with more interest and wonder about the subject of science. Animals were no longer scary, weather was intriguing and dinosaurs were even more awesome, but after the day it’s more interesting for everyone.

“There’s a lot to learn,” attendee Michael Nielson said. “It helps us all understand things better and overcome different fears.”

A volunteer teaches kids about turtles during Super Science Saturday. Many volunteers from Western and different schools helped out.



# The Sweet Taste of Success:

Craig School of Business presents  
competitions in franchise ownership

Iced marshmallows are displayed in the front case  
at Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory. The store is  
owned by past winner Leslie Oberg



Owners Leslie and James Oberg help Western students learn the ins and outs of owning a small business. Leslie Oberg is a 2011 graduate of Missouri Western.

Every spring semester a class in the Craig School of Business (CSB) called Applied Entrepreneurship is offered at Missouri Western State University. The class is started in 2009 with Steven L. Craig's idea that graduates could become entrepreneurs and own their own franchise within months of graduating.

During the class students write a business plan for a company including: background information, an industry overview, local perspective, market analysis, marketing strategy, financials, management, financial projections and a project summary. A preliminary competition is held toward the end of the semester. The students present their business plans to the CSB advisory council members. During the presentation the students spend about 20 minutes talking about their business plan. The next 30 minutes the council asks questions and have students further explain their plans.

Finalists revise their plans and then present them to new judges. Judges are looking to see if the students understand their plan, how accurate their financial projections are and how confident they are in their plan. Judges for the final competition include representatives from each franchise offering a store, a faculty member, members of the advisory council, President Dr. Martabedian, Dean Lane, store owners and Steve Craig.

"He is the reason that all of this exists" Pam Klaus said.

At the end of the competition the franchise opportunities are awarded. Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory is the most well known store in the competition. It was the very first store awarded during the 2009 competition to Seth Lions.

Craig had connections with the founder of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and shared the franchise program idea. Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory now plays a big role in the program because it gives the students the funds they need for their franchise.

Klaus described the challenge graduates face when starting a franchise. She said it is difficult to get a loan to start a business without experience or money of your own.

"We are trying to get away from calling it the 'Rocky Program' because it's so much more than that," Klaus said.

New franchises have recently been introduced to the program. U-Swirl is now offering franchises for the competition. U-Swirl is a self-serve frozen yogurt franchise that includes Yogurtini and Aspen Leaf and is owned by Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory.

This will also be the first semester American Family Insurance will be offering a franchise for the competition. When students made their business plans they chose between the direction of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and U-Swirl, or American Family Insurance. Because the two types of franchises are so different, students' business plans are based either on a service center business or a retail and food business.

The franchises present locations that are available to the advisory council and the council evaluates the locations, and decides which locations will give their students the best opportunity. The judges rank finalists and the winner selects the location of the franchise they would like, followed by second and so on, depending on how many locations are available.

After the winners have selected the franchise they would like to own they attend franchise training and sign financial documents with the lender, CSB and Western. CSB continues to support their storeowners and asks that winners commit to come back for an event every year, whether it is to attend a dinner or speak to a class. They also ask winners to donate back to the program to help it continue. Donations from winners are used to pay for expenses in the program such as airfare for internships at franchise locations.

The winner of the 2011 competition, Leslie Oberg, recently took over the St. Joseph Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and Aspen Leaf. Leslie's first franchise was located in Williamsburg, Iowa. After having great success in Williamsburg, including Rookie of the Year, Steve Craig asked Oberg if she would be interested in selling her store to another graduate and take over the St. Joseph location. Students in the class now go to Oberg's store an hour a week for the first six weeks and go over all aspects of owning a small business.

[ Photos & Story: Blair Russell ]  
[ Design: Bryant Scott ]

A group of Step Afrika members doing a line dance during a routine. Many different costumes were used including traditional style clothing.



# STEP

Story & Photos: Tommy Marshall ]  
Design: Jodi Stamback ]

# AFRIKA

This spring, Step Afrika visited Missouri Western State University and put on a show that got the entire audience clapping.

The show took place in Western's Potter Hall Theater and was attended by an audience of about 100 or so. Chatter filled the room before the lights went down and the performers took the stage. The team clapped and stomped passionately, swaying the entire room into joining along. Shouts filled the theater as the team stole the stage and the audience erupted in cheers.

"It was really cool, I've always liked watching step dances," senior Lindsey Bird said. Step Afrika performs a form of percussive dance called "Stepping".

It is a dance in which the performer uses their entire body as an instrument to produce rhythms and sounds through the use of claps, words and footsteps.

It pulls influences from traditional African dances and military-style drills. While it can be performed alone, it is often done in a group or ensemble.

Throughout the night the Step Afrika team performed several different 'scenes' of step in which props, costumes and settings were involved. One scene involved audience members learning a dance while another featured the team dressed in traditional African clothing and performing with props such as shields and whistles. Several members were also present at the back of the stage accompanying the dancers with drumbeats. The last scene of the night featured performer Christopher Brient stepping solo in a call and response with the audience. The group then presented themselves and took a bow.

Step is an incredibly physically demanding style of dance, making the one-hour show time of Step Afrika an impressive feat.

While draining, the performers like Christopher Brient, rehearse often while on tour to keep in shape for what the style requires.

“Our season starts in August, and we have about two-three weeks of intense rehearsal,” Brient said. “When we’re not on the road we’re back in the studio in D.C. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.”

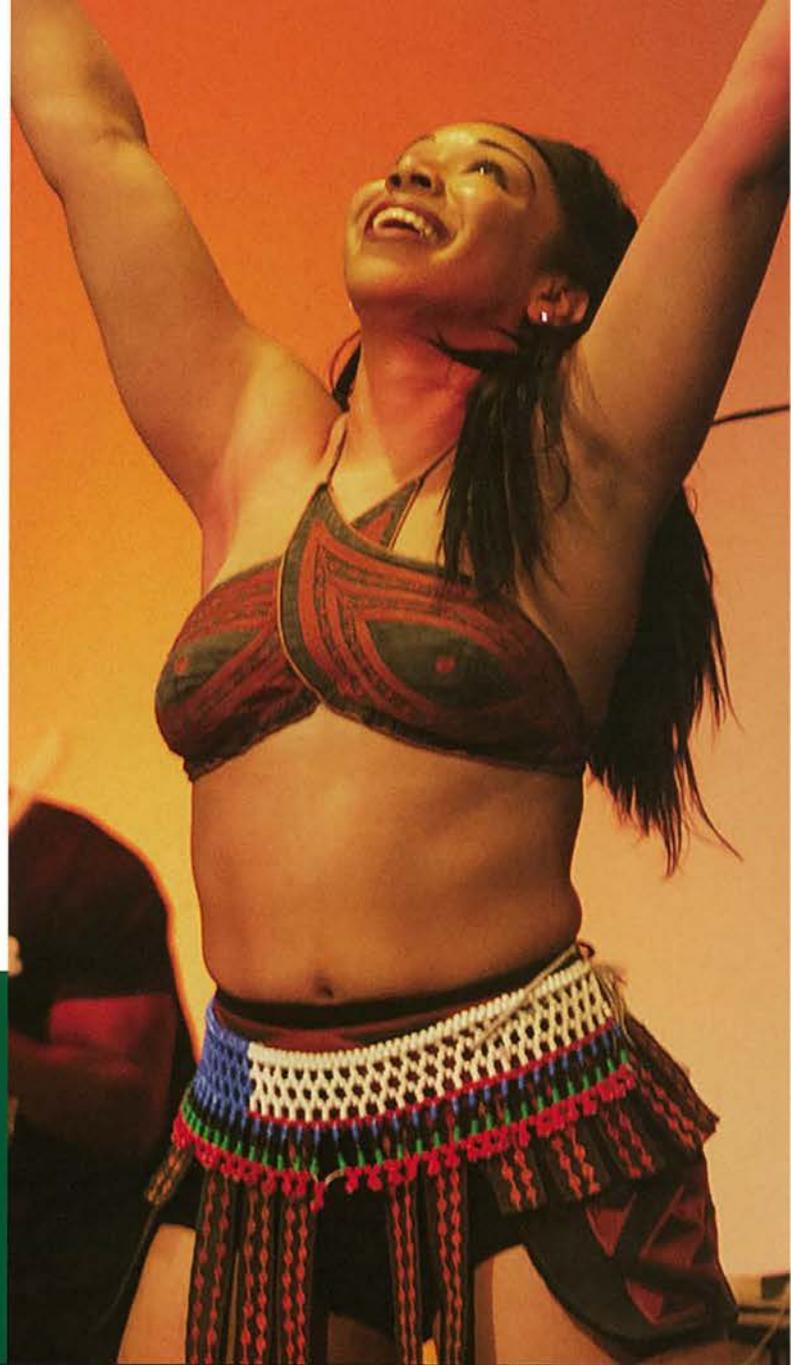
The tight rehearsal schedule displays a group that works hard for what they do, and loves every minute of it.

Since Step Afrika was formed in 1994, the company has been about the appreciation of stepping and its use as a tool to motivate young people educationally and physically. The group has performed all over the United States and in different countries such as Japan. They aim to connect to audiences everywhere and create a positive influence in students’ lives, while giving them a better appreciation of the arts.

“We really like to reach young people,” performer Olu Akpan said. “Education and discipline play an important part in stepping and what you want to do in your life.”

[ Right ] Brittney Smith gives a shout during a step dance. The different dances involved different costumes and props such as shields, whistles and drums.

[ Below ] Step Afrika members during the opening dance. They perform ‘Step’ which is a very physical style of dancing that involves clapping, stomping and spoken word.





Kyla Breeze dances to songs by Iggy Azalea at Missouri Western's 2014 Drag Show. Six performers were invited by the Center for Multicultural Education to perform at Missouri Western.

# Stilettos, sequins and sparkles:

## Missouri Western 2014 Drag Show raises funds for the Trevor Project

[ Story, Photos & Design: Jessika Eidson ]

In celebration of LGBTQ history month, in October of 2014, Missouri Western hosted a Drag Show in the Fulkerson Center.

The large room was packed as over 360 people filled dozens of tables and stood along walls to watch the performance. As spotlights lit the runway, several female impersonators took the stage adorned in sky-high stilettos, glimmering gowns and huge hairdos. From the moment one hostess named Sparkle grabbed the mic, these drag divas had the full attention of their audience.

“We really aim for everyone to just have a lot of fun,” Sparkle said. “It’s our purpose to make sure our audiences is having a great time. If they’re just sitting there bored, then we’re not doing our job.”

Some numbers were classy, such as a rendition of “Good Morning Baltimore” from the Broadway musical “Hairspray.” But for the majority of the show, the audience was treated to risqué performances, some of which involved audience members.

Throughout the performance, the dancers were able to pull several dollars bills from their corsets given to them by audience members. The entertainers didn’t keep these profits, however. The Center for Multicultural Education invited these performers to the campus to help with a very special project.

“It’s always done to raise awareness about a particular issue within the LGBTQ [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning] community,” Latoya Fitzpatrick, director of the CME, said.

This year’s donations went toward The Trevor Project, an organization dedicated in providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention to people of the LGBTQ community. They target people within the ages of 13 and 25 due to this being a time when many LGBTQ young people are three to four times more likely to end their own lives.

Taylor McGrath, president of the Pride Alliance,

was glad to see the funds going toward a project that is helping people. The Pride Alliance met with some representatives earlier in the semester and discussed how to handle things like suicide and depression that might come up; they learned most importantly that they should point those who are struggling to resources like Trevor.

“I think it’s an awesome project and foundation for the funds to go to,” McGrath said. “I’m really grateful that they did that.”

“It has a lot to do with bullying especially in high school and middle school,” McGrath said in regards to the mental illness many LGBTQ youth face. “These kids are different, and they feel different, and other people make them feel different. And so they get picked on, or they feel uninvited, or they feel alone, and that leads to the anxiety and depression.”

Another source of counseling available to all Missouri Western students is through the Counseling Center located in Eder 203. There students can find counselors who specialize in helping people in the LGBTQ community among other things.

“In the event that someone is experiencing anxiety, or depression, or something serious, I definitely think that they should go to counseling first because they will know how to help them,” McGrath said. Another support base for LGBTQ students is within the Pride Alliance itself.

While donations were given for such a crucial cause, Missouri Western was able to enjoy an upbeat show full of drag queens in stilettos cartwheeling and falling into splits.

“I was really shocked at how many people came,” McGrath said. “I just didn’t know with how visible LGBTQ presence was on campus that that many people would show up to a drag show at Missouri Western. But that entire room was full; there were people that were standing because they didn’t have chairs, and that really awed me.”



Light Up Western brought together entertainment and fun for Griffons and community members on Dec. 2 in Fulkerson Center. Students saw the Kelley Commons lit up (Top), enjoyed carols from Western Appeal (Above), skated in an iceless skating rink (Above Right) and took pictures with Santa (right).

[ Story and Design: Taylor Allen ]  
 [ Photos: Nick Ingram ]

## Light Up Western kicks off winter and spreads holiday cheer

The atmosphere was filled with joy and celebration as Western Activities Council kicked off winter with Light Up Western.

The festivities on Dec. 2 included an “iceless” skating rink, photos with Santa Claus and snacking on cookies and hot chocolate.

Missouri Western students and community members alike enjoyed the fun in the Fulkerson Center, which was decorated like a winter wonderland. Many children were in attendance and told Santa what they were hoping to receive for the holidays.

Along with celebrating the winter season, the event gave students an opportunity to relax while fall finals loomed on the horizon.

Charles Flemons, director of comedy for WAC, said the event was a good stress reliever for students.

“It gets you ready for Christmas, which is like the happiest time of the year, or at least its supposed to be,” Flemons said. “What better way to kick off Christmas and blow off some stress before finals than eating cookies and hanging out with Santa.”

Tony Dougherty, previous vice president of WAC, said he enjoyed the cookies, hot chocolate and the overall atmosphere of the event.

“Everyone loves Christmastime and the holidays and this just gets you pumped up even more,” Dougherty said. “The whole indoor ice skating was something we brought in last year and I’m really glad they’ve continued to do it because people really enjoy it.”

Jacob Teasley, junior and resident assistant in Scanlon Hall was also in attendance.

“Light Up Western is awesome, I’ve had a really good time,” Teasley said. “I loved ice skating and sitting on Santa’s lap, that was fun.”

Along with having fun, Teasley said he was excited to have received the free prize of text-enabled gloves embroidered with the Griffon logo.

Dougherty said that attending events like this is a great way to relieve stress from finals and the last week of classes.

“This last week of classes is probably just as rough as finals week, so just being able to take a second, come out and have a good time, is definitely good for the students,” Dougherty said.

Student Government Association Vice President of WAC Julia Buescher said she was glad WAC could host such broad events.

“Events like this focus on the whole campus so anybody can come to it,” Buescher said. “We have

people from the community here, so it’s just a wide range of people that can come to the event, which I think is a success no matter how many people show up.”

Buescher also encouraged students to get involved in WAC.

“Any student has a say in Western Activities Council,” Buescher said. “We are constantly voting on things, and anybody can bring a different idea to the table. I encourage students to come to our meetings so that way they have a say. It’s not a dictatorship - it’s a democracy.”

Flemons said students should look for more events throughout the semester hosted by WAC, not just around the holidays.

“Come to all WAC events; we throw them for you,” Flemons said.

“What better way to kick off Christmas and blow off some stress before finals than eating cookies and hanging out with Santa.”

*-Charles Flemons  
WAC Director of Comedy*

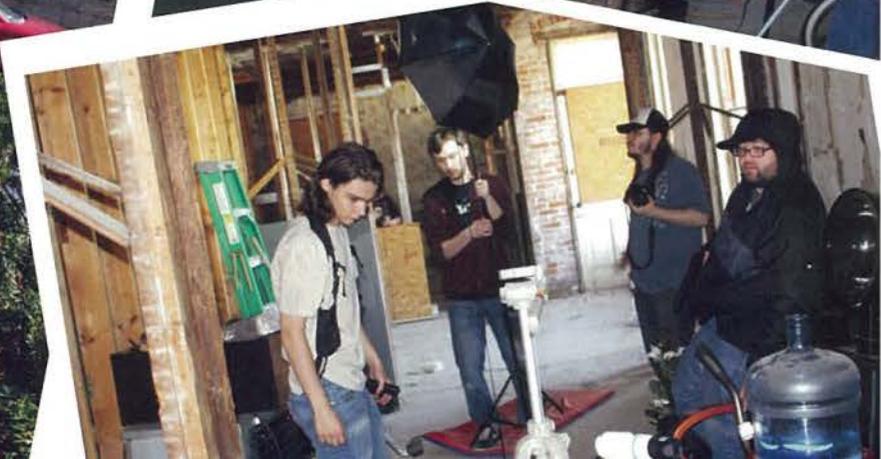
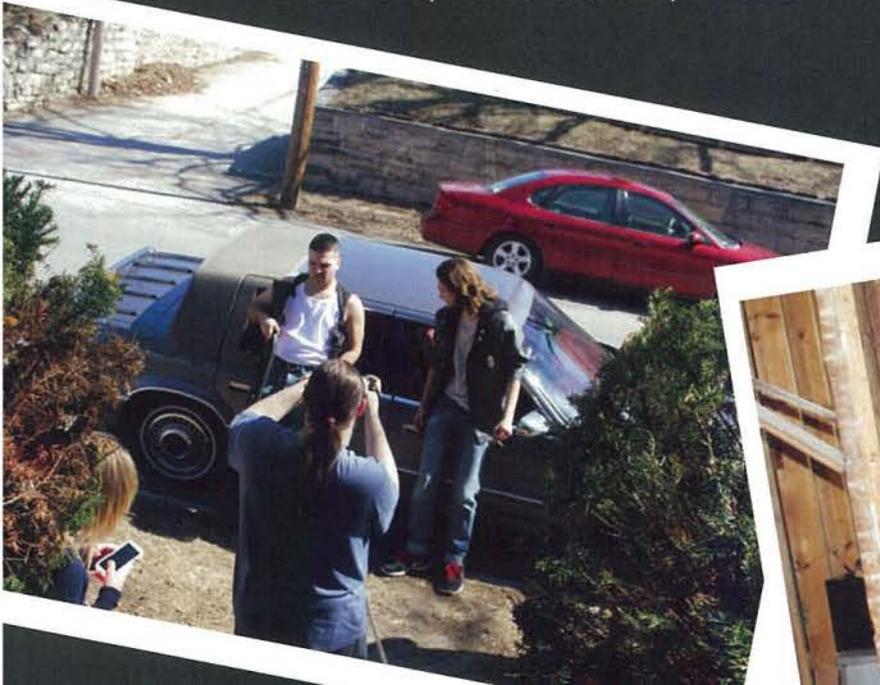
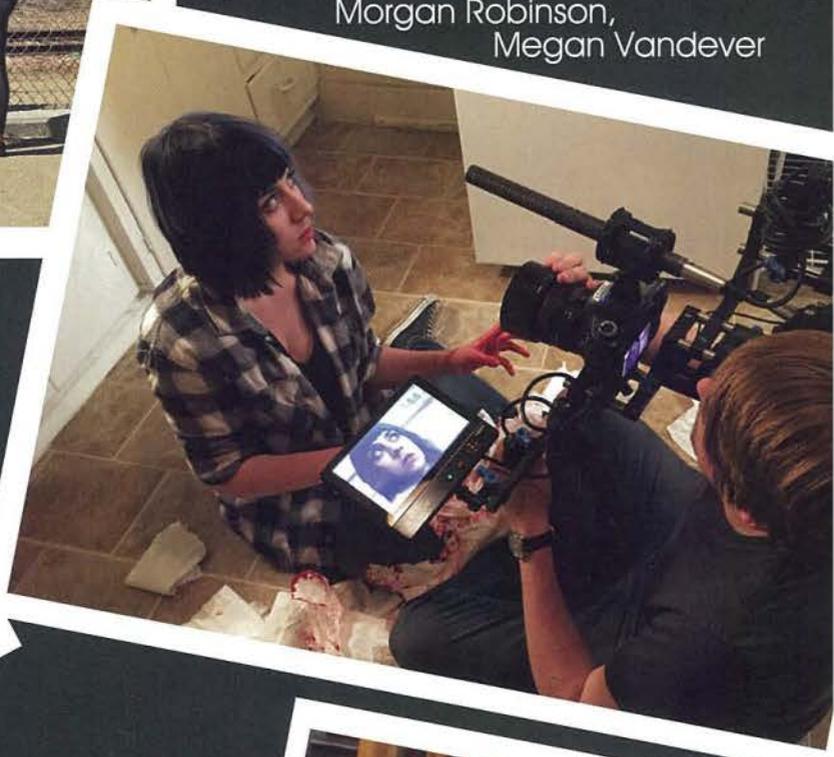
# BAT PACK 2: ELECTRIC BOOGALOO

Brian Dusky, Jeremy Edwards,  
Elliot Swope, Jeni Swope,  
Morgan Robinson,  
Megan Vandever



## NT FILMS

Russell Gummelt, Nathan Pinion, Sydney  
Millbourn, Brett Keegan, Paul Petty, Lauren  
Bergman, Jared Vincent, Darrell  
Traw, Eryn Goode, Abby Millbourn





# THELMA & LOUISE PRODUCTIONS

Nathan Pickman, Blair Stalder, Christian Mengle, Thomas Huitt-Johnson, Gary Smith, Andy Tyhurst

## AND THE AWARD GOES TO....

- Audience Award - NT Films, The Warrant
- Best Use of Prop - NT Films, The Warrant
- Best Use of Line - NT Films, The Warrant
- Best Use of Character - Grey Area Films, Homies Over Hoes
- Best Editing - Thelma and Louise Productions, Clocking Out, Nathan Pickman
- Best Cinematography - Thelma and Louise Productions, Clocking Out, Nathan Pickman and Blair Stalder
- Best Supporting Actor - Grey Area Films, Homies Over Hoes, Nick Ford
- Best Female Actor - Batpack 2: Electric Boogaloo, Somewhere in the Inbetween, Meghan Vandever
- Best Male Actor - Thelma and Louise Productions, Clocking Out, Christian Mengel
- Best Runner Up - Batpack 2: Electric Boogaloo, Somewhere in the Inbetween



# Breaking Bids

Western sororities have record-breaking year

**O**n a crisp September morning, a group of eager, young women gathered in Spratt Stadium. Adorned in blue, pink and orange T-shirts, they awaited the arrival of the recruits, and with each newcomer, the final decision for which sorority she would be joining.

This year, Western's PanHellenic Society broke the record of bids. Prior to the big day, many activities were organized to help potential members make a decision about which sorority they would be joining this year. On Information Night, each recruit was placed in a group that would be led by a Rho Gamma. These groups followed their disaffiliated leaders throughout the week as they learned about Greek life at Missouri Western.

"Being in a sorority means you

have to keep up a certain GPA, you have to stay involved," Kendra Greer, president of the Panhellenic Society, said. "There's the athletic or physical side of the sororities, and there's also the intellectual side of studying. Really it just depends on which sorority you're kind of looking toward going home to and what their qualities are."

Information Night was designed to give each potential new member a chance to discover which sorority would be a good match for her. They were also allowed to see the reality of Greek life.

"They learn [that] it's not what it's like in the movies, that we're not that stereotype," Jessica Hazlehorst, chair of recruitment, said "They honestly got to see how close the sororities are and not the negative sides of them."

Another opportunity during Bid Week to get better acquainted with the sorority members was during an hour-long Zumba workout. The goals of this night were to both encourage a healthy lifestyle in sororities and to remind each group they are all Greek, even though the model different letters.

For the remainder of the week, the women could attend parties hosted by each sorority to be introduced to its members. These nights were also designed to teach the recruits about Greek life and whether or not it would be right for them.

Although Greek life isn't for everyone, it does have many benefits according to its older members. For Hazlehort, some of these bonuses are meeting lifelong friends and having a chapter that has similar ambitions. She encouraged those

Alpha Sigma Alpha members Katie Jamagin and Shelby Demott welcome back Rho Gammas. Rho Gammas disaffiliated from their priority to guide new recruits.

who are considering recruitment to go to with an open mind to sororities and Greek life.

“Even if you decide ‘oh my gosh, Greek’s not for me. I can’t stand it!’ you meet so many great people just in the process of it,” Hazlehort said. “You just have to give it a chance.”

While many would say sororities are social-minded groups, there are several other valuable experiences members can take part in.

“There’s definitely a lot of leadership opportunities,” Tara Caligiuri, an ASA member, said. “There’s also lots of philanthropy. Working with the Special Olympics is our main one, and Girls on the Run we do a lot with. I really enjoy doing that; it teaches you to give back.”

Other charity events include Rockin’ for Robbie to promote play therapy for children, and a Teeter Totter-A-Thon to help with the research of childhood diabetes.

Any of Missouri Western’s women are welcome to go through the Panhellenic recruitment. There are newcomers of all ages and school years who register online each fall semester.

“I would say even if you have an inch of thinking that you want to go Greek, to go to Info Night,” Greer said. “Even if it’s not for you, you’ll find that out the first night.”

The chants and applause of the sorority members resonated through the stadium as the recruits made their way onto the field. Each newcomer lined up along the sideline in anticipation of the moment when she would be called to the front. Under every girl’s jacket was a T-shirt matching those of her chosen sorority sisters; as the names were called and the sororities were announced, they unzipped their jackets to reveal their ultimate decision.

Each sorority welcomed their



Tri Sigma welcomes a new member. Each new member was announced and embraced by her new family.

new members with applause. Some girls were triumphantly carried to their chosen homes; others found themselves in tears as their sorority sisters surrounded them. Some were just lucky enough to escape a dog-pile and be able to stand beside their new friends.

After newcomers were welcomed, the time came to welcome back some of their other members. These Rho Gammas were ladies who had chosen to disaffiliate from their sororities to help guide the recruits. They sang a short song about being away from their home, and like the new members, lined up for their revealing. These reunions brought even more tears and tackles as they ran back into the loving arms of their friends.

“Most girls would definitely say they’re glad it’s something they did their freshman year so that they can experience it all four years,” Greer said. “It’s the best thing that I’ve done here at Missouri Western.”



Alpha Sigma Alpha members run to embrace Kendra Greer, a communication major. Greer was welcomed back into her sorority following the announcements for new recruits.

[ Story, Photos & Design: Jessika Eidson ]



Several games like poker and blackjack allowed players to take part in a unique, strategic challenge while getting to know members of Western's fraternities

# Why the Rush?

Fraternities are often shown as massive parties throughout the media, but Missouri Western State University's rush week seeks to establish a different reputation and show what fraternities are really about. On Jan. 26-29, that's exactly what happened.

Rush week is exactly as it sounds. Students interested in joining a fraternity sign up and go through several different nights of activities. An information night is given at the first of the week to give students a look at what is in store and what opportunities they have. The rest of the week consists of various activities to help pledges feel comfortable and meet new people. At the end of the week, pledges interview for the different

fraternities.

"It's one solid week of just easing your way into the process," senior Jacob Dowell said. "You learn about each fraternity on campus and what the whole process is about." After students learned about it all on information night, the rest of the week went fast.

On Tuesday, pledges participated in "court to court." It all starts in Blum's food court and cafeteria. Pledges got food and talked with each other then headed over to the basketball courts in Looney for some friendly competition.

Many games took place throughout the night as

pledges played their hardest. Court to court has taken place several different years in rush week, and consistently proves popular in helping the students bond.

The next night was game night. Pledges gathered in Blum to play video games and card games. Several TVs were set up around the room, with an Xbox 360 attached to each one. Pledges played a variety of different football and basketball games as they challenged each other in tournaments.

In the middle of the room a card game table was set up and many games of poker and blackjack took place. Snacks like chips and soda were also set up for anyone to take

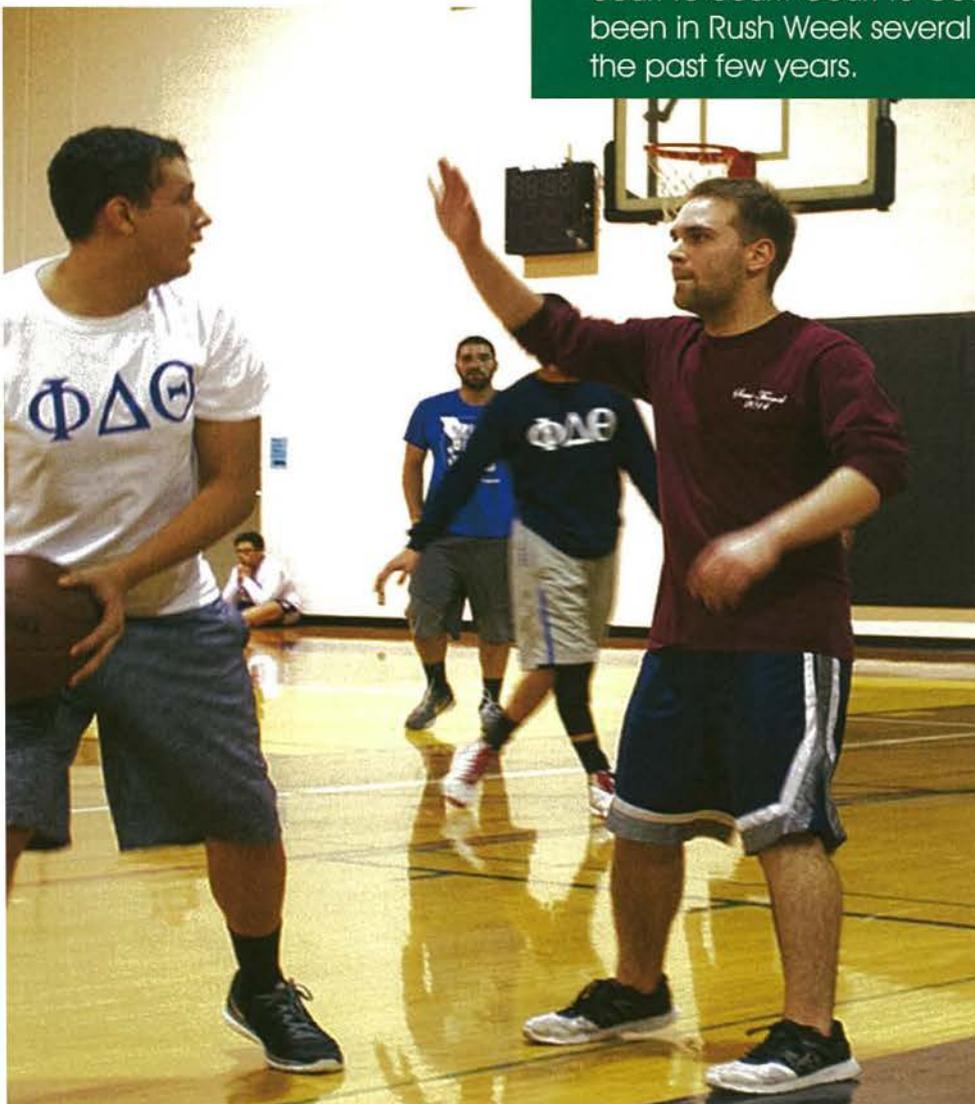


[Submitted] Members of Phi Delta Theta pose while on a trip. Fraternities of Missouri Western have offered several trips and events for members.

freely.

At the end of the activity nights, pledges walked away with new friends and experiences.

Rushees play an intense game at court to court. Court to Court has been in Rush Week several times in the past few years.



“They’re your brothers,” said freshman Jalen Redmond. “You just get to know them, just like that.”

While pledges grew closer, there was still the pondering of who would get accepted at the end of the week.

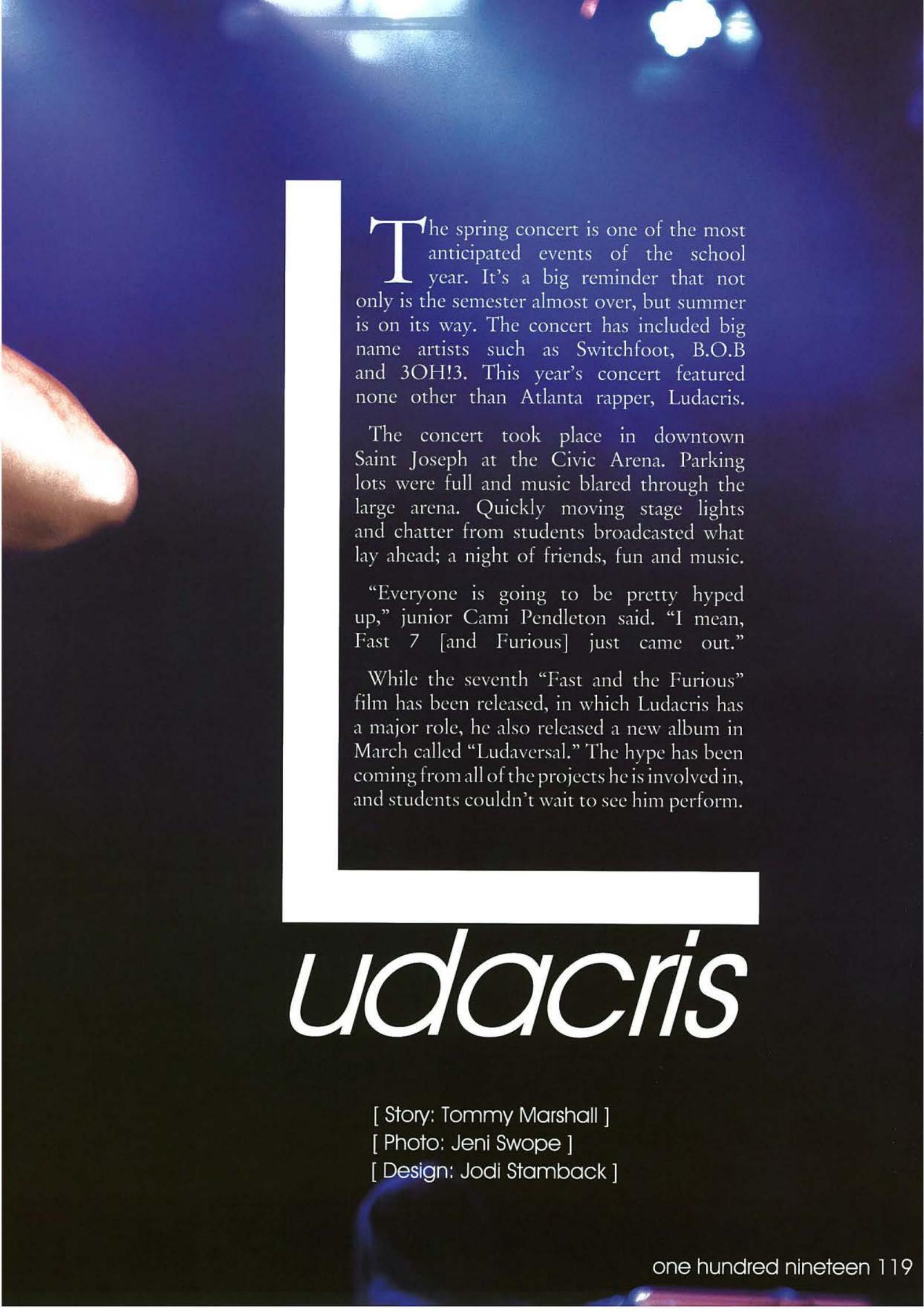
Thursday was interview night in Spratt. Students were asked questions to help leaders not only get to know them better, but evaluate them for decision day. Different criteria such as academic standing are looked at in the process, and helps leaders decide who gets in. Nerves are definitely present, but most of the pledges keep a calm head about it.

“This is a pretty awesome fraternity,” freshman Keegan Cathcart said. “I’d be blessed to be a part of it.”

[ Story & Photos: Thomas Marshall ]

[ Design: Jessika Eidson ]





The spring concert is one of the most anticipated events of the school year. It's a big reminder that not only is the semester almost over, but summer is on its way. The concert has included big name artists such as Switchfoot, B.O.B and 3OH!3. This year's concert featured none other than Atlanta rapper, Ludacris.

The concert took place in downtown Saint Joseph at the Civic Arena. Parking lots were full and music blared through the large arena. Quickly moving stage lights and chatter from students broadcasted what lay ahead; a night of friends, fun and music.

"Everyone is going to be pretty hyped up," junior Cami Pendleton said. "I mean, Fast 7 [and Furious] just came out."

While the seventh "Fast and the Furious" film has been released, in which Ludacris has a major role, he also released a new album in March called "Ludaversal." The hype has been coming from all of the projects he is involved in, and students couldn't wait to see him perform.

# *ludacris*

[ Story: Tommy Marshall ]

[ Photo: Jeni Swope ]

[ Design: Jodi Stamback ]



Ludacris greets an excited audience of Missouri Western students and community members. The Atlanta-based rapper's set contained hits from his 18 year career.

Students were restless by the time opener Bryce Vine took the stage. Vine delivered an energetic set of hip-hop songs from his EP, "Lazy Fair" as well as a Kendrick Lamar cover. His bombastic energy helped to get the crowd pumped during his set. By the time Vine was done, the crowd was left hungry for more music. Lucky for them, Ludacris was on his way.

"I'm a big fan of his movies," sophomore Kayla Dowell said. "I really enjoy his music too."

The 30 minute wait between sets felt like an eternity. When it almost looked as if the rest of the show wouldn't happen, the lights went down and the crowd exploded. Ludacris emerged from side stage with a fire that raged through the audience, many of whom wildly bounced to his quick flow and intense stage presence.

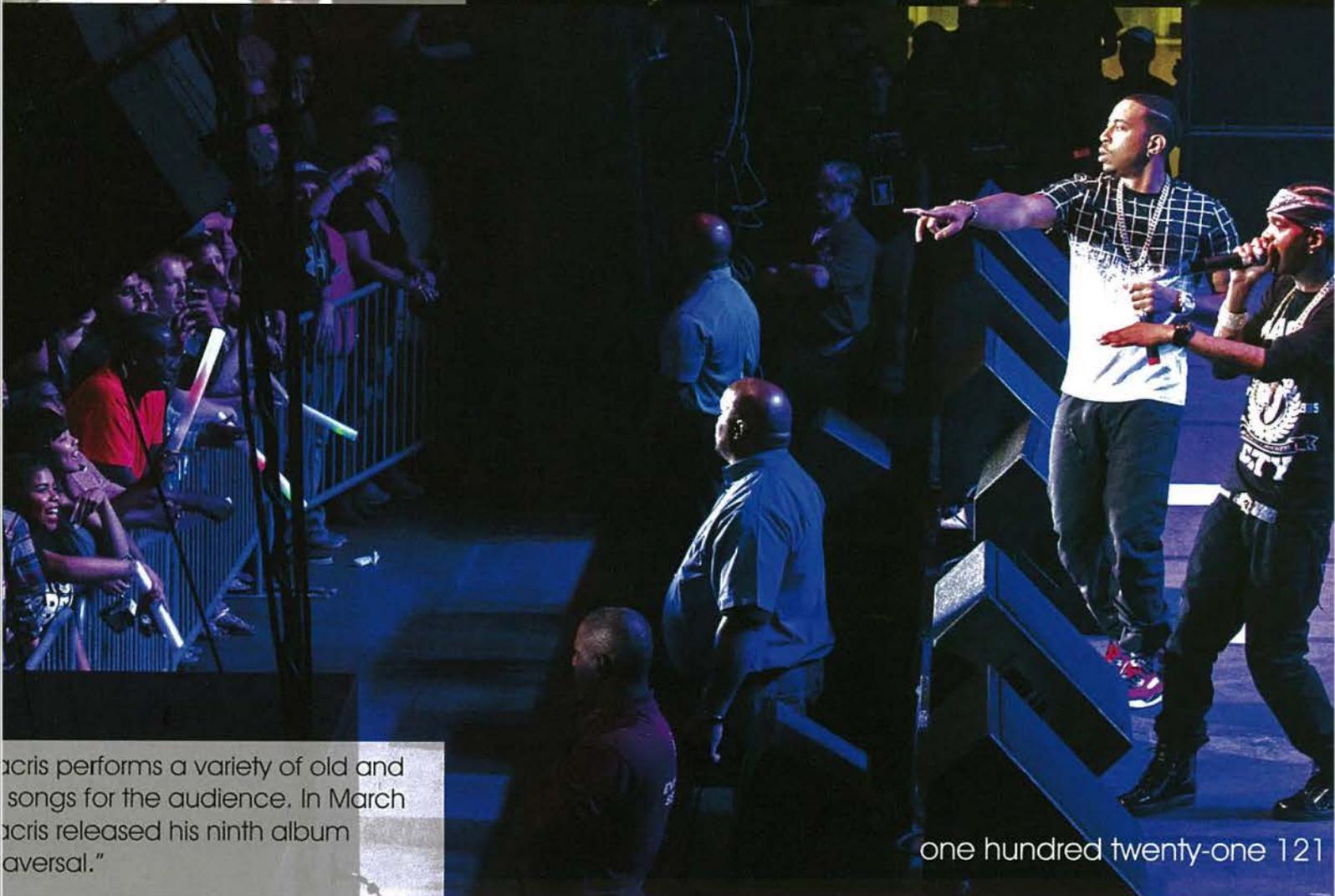
His set up not only had a DJ, but included a full live band, a sight that is incredibly rare and very refreshing in regards to live hip-hop performance. Ludacris tore through a set full of his biggest hits as well as playing several new tunes off "Ludaversal." His set went for over an hour and the audience ate it up.

"I thought it was great," attendee Cody McKinney said. "I'm not his biggest fan, but I do like him."

The night was over and it was a successful one. Ludacris and Bryce Vine continued the tradition of delivering a massive show to the Missouri Western State University student body. Put on by the Western Activities Council, the spring concert brings the heat every single year and leaves audiences wondering who is going to come next.



...ner Bryce Vine gets the crowd going  
...ready for Ludacris. Vine released his  
...record "Lazy Fair" in 2014.



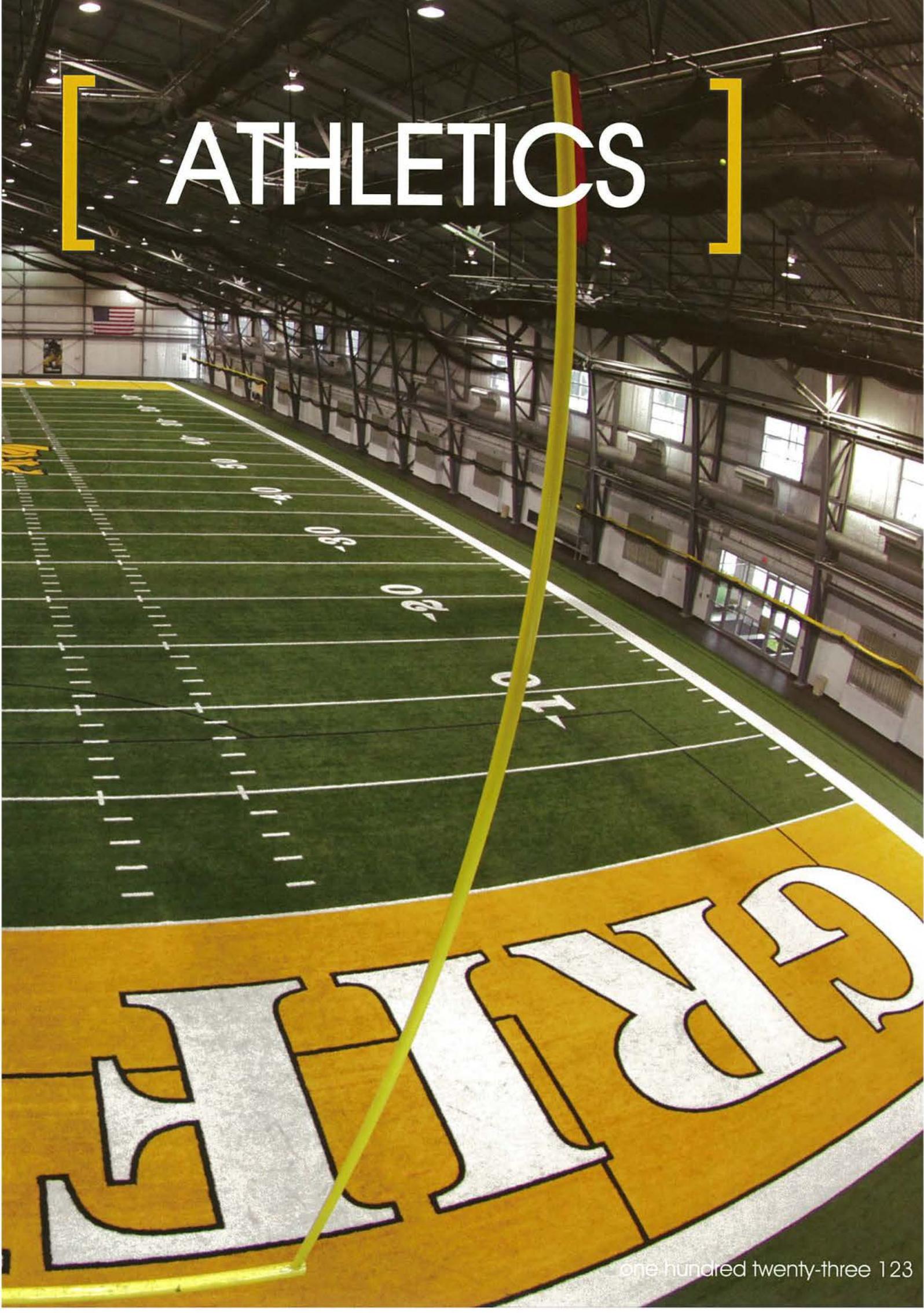
...acris performs a variety of old and  
...songs for the audience. In March  
...acris released his ninth album  
...aversal."

The Griffon Indoor Sports Complex serves as a training space for the Kansas City Chiefs. The GISC was completed in 2010.

[ Photo: Jeni Swope ]



# ATHLETICS





# Griffon Football



Despite the Griffons getting blown out at Homecoming, and not making it to the playoffs, the 2014 season ended on a positive note with a comeback win at Missouri Southern. The Griffons were just 7-4 on the season. There were a few setbacks this season. The biggest setback was inexperience, because the Griffons lost some key, experienced players.

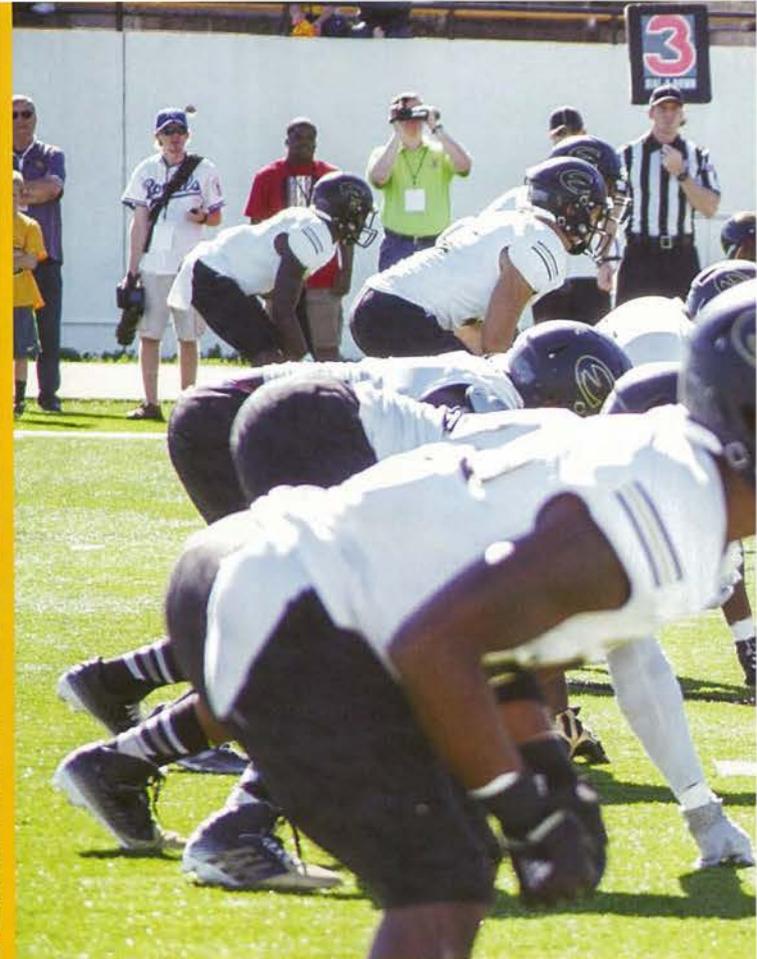
“The one thing that you cannot coach is experience,” Coach Aaron Bell said. The Griffons had two new quarterbacks this year, TJ LaFaver and Skyler Windmiller. The two quarterbacks were taking over a huge, key position with no experience under their belt but as the season went on LaFaver and Windmiller got more confident.

“Confidence goes a long ways and that really showed at the end of the season with Skyler,” Stephon Weaver said. “Everything started to come together at the end of the season and it will definitely transfer into next season.” (cont.)



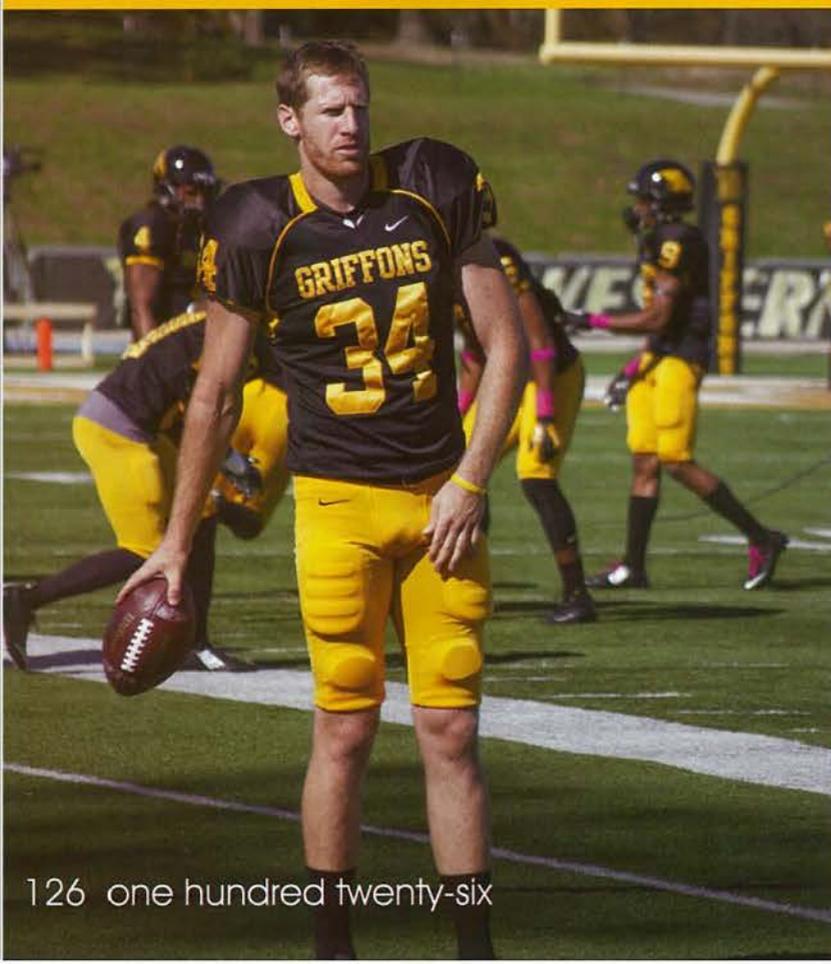
Although the Griffons were inexperienced in 2014, the 2015 season is looking bright. The Griffons are preparing in the off-season harder than ever. They are currently running and lifting with strength and conditioning.

“Greg makes our workouts and is helping us get stronger in the off season,” Michael Jordan said. “It really is an honor to have someone like him helping us and pushing us everyday.”



[ Center ] The Griffons' offense lines up against Emporia State for the 2014 Homecoming game. The Griffons won 10-30 despite out gaining Emporia 509-335 yards.

[ Left Top ] Raphael Spencer rushes the ball in a homecoming game. Spencer rushed 1,126 yards on 243 carries in 2014.



The Griffons will be starting spring training in the next few weeks. Spring training really focuses on individual and team needs. The Griffons are young so it is important that they keep working hard and keep focusing on the right goals; the Griffons play 7-on-7 in practices. They are looking forward to keeping players healthy and maintaining consistency. The Griffons are also working hard off the field.

“We are getting more involved with school work, the guys who need mentoring are keeping up their grades,” Dee Tolliver said. “We are also building leadership; in football leadership is important and I know that it will help us next fall.”

This upcoming season the Griffons will have a lot to

...k forward too. The Griffons have to just take one  
...me at a time and not to look over any opponent.

It is doing the little things right like finishing drives,  
...mpeting, going 110 percent when you are tired and  
...ieving in each other, those things make the biggest  
...ference come fall," Tolliver said.

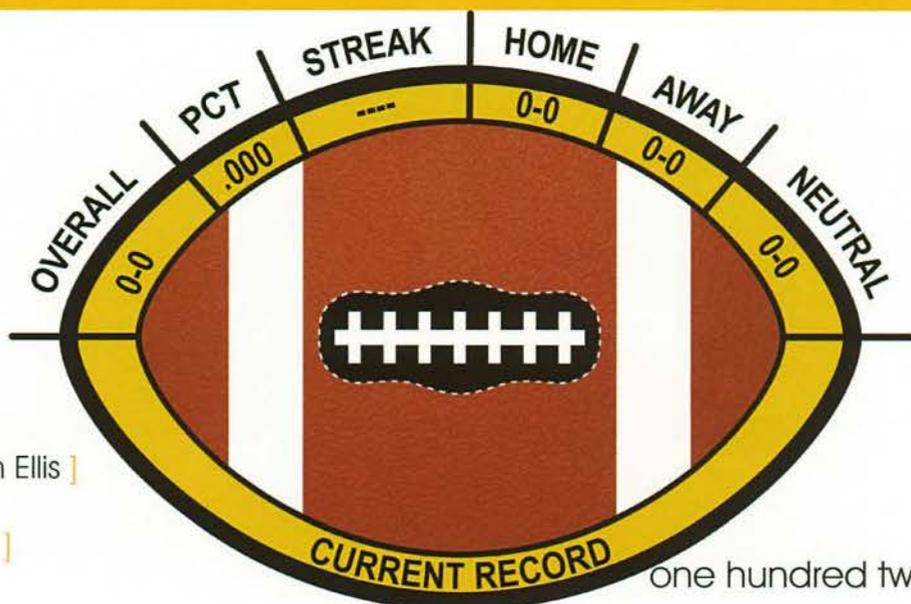
With this upcoming season I'm going to have a year



[ Bottom ] Scott Groner logs many hours practicing. Groner averaged 42.2 yards/kick with 60 punts in 2014.

[ ht ] Cody Lindsay salutes to congratulate a teammate on a great play. Lindsay had 37 tackles, including  
...n sacks.

...der my belt, and I am ready  
...go," quarterback Skyler  
...ndmiller said.



[ Story: Tiffany Gillaspay ]  
[ Photos: Jodi Stambach & John Ellis ]  
[ Design: Byrant Scott ]  
[ Graphic: Sarika Gongolla ]



Josh Lansangan pitches to Missouri Southern player. Lansangan had 43 strikeouts this season.

# BASEBALL

The Griffon baseball team had a great season going 29-21 and 22-14 in the MIAA. The Griffons had a lot of new faces on the playing field. They brought in new position players that made a significant difference offensively and defensively.

The Griffon offensive was very consistent scoring a lot of runs each game.

“Our strength this season has definitely been our bats,” senior Cody Childs said. The Griffons batted an average of .321 this season.

Orencio Fisher, Ryan Degner and David Glaude were the team leaders when it came to hitting.

Although the Griffons scored a lot of run, they lost some walk-offs.

“We lost a lot of close games; our performance late in the game needs to improve,” senior Cosimo Cannella said. The pitching staff was led by Senior Banks Born and Junior J. Martinez.

Looking ahead, the Griffons will continue to get better, faster and longer to prepare for next season.

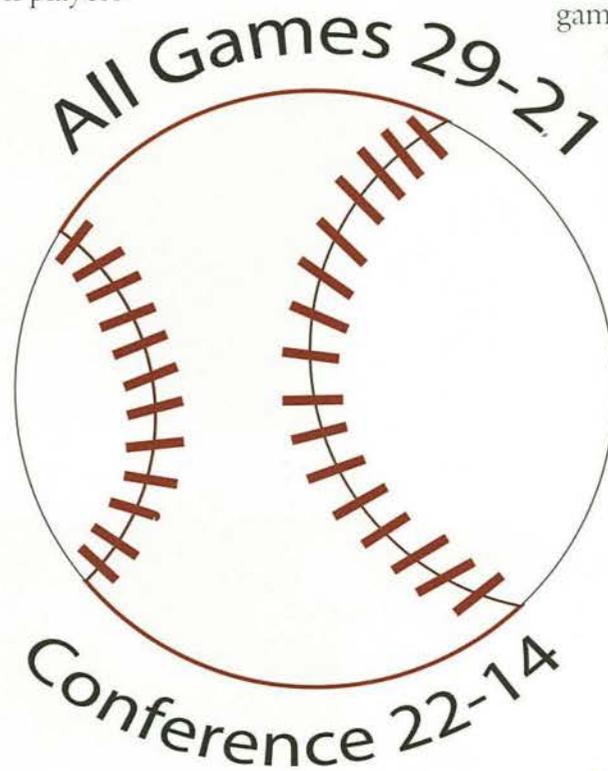
“Our team has a lot of solid players and leaders coming back, which is critical to starting next year on the right note,” Childs said. “Focusing

on putting everything together each game is something this team will strive for.”

Although talent is something that wins ball games, it definitely is not everything. Chemistry plays a huge role in team success.

“The chemistry is great, everyone is always pulling for each other,” junior Mike Calimeno said. “We all have the same goal, and that’s why it is so fun.”

The Griffons look forward to having an even better season than they did in 2015. Although many seniors graduated, the Griffons will return some important players.



[ Story: Tiffany Gillaspay ]

[ Photos: John Ellis ]

[ Design & Graphic: Jessika Eidson ]

Cosimo Cannella goes for ground ball as Missouri Southern's Chris Hoffman arrives at base. Cannella averaged .986 in the field this season.





[ Above ] Dareon Jones scores against Rockhurst University. Jones averaged of 5.6 points per game. [ Right ] Aaron Emmanuel defends against Rockhurst University. Emmanuel averaged 8.7 points per game

# Men's Basketball



The Missouri Western State University men's basketball team had everyone on the edge of their seats to see what this team would do in the 2014-2015 season. This was head coach Brett Weiberg's second season with the Griffons. Coach Weiberg was well aware that this season, he would have to build a new team.

"It was hard adjusting at the beginning of the year, but as the season went on our chemistry got better," senior Dareon Jones said. "We believed we could still play with anyone in our conference."

Going into Christmas break, the Griffons lost another key player, starting point guard Ryan Devers. This was an upset for the team, but they did not let this set them back.

"It was tough adjusting when Ryan left, but others had to step up," senior guard and roommate of Devers, Cortez Colbert said. "Ryan was like the heart and soul of the team. All of the freshman looked up to him and they also learned a lot from him. I knew when he left I had to step up as a senior."

Colbert was on a hot streak the last couple games during Christmas break. In the defeat against Northeastern State University, Colbert had a high of 25



points, and then against Central Oklahoma he scored 24 points. He was also named MIAA player of the week Dec. 21, 2014. Throughout the season, Colbert showed consistency, scoring double figures 18 consecutive games.

The Griffons came back after Christmas break ready to play and prove to everyone that they have the ability to win and a chance to make it to the MIAA tournament. The Griffons defeated the number one team in the conference, Lindenwood, at home 67-58. Later, the Griffons played Southwest Baptist defeating them 71-58. Seniors Cortez Colbert, Hans Thun and junior Kevin Thomas were all top scorers in this game. Because of this win, the Griffon's earned their spot into the MIAA tournament.

The Griffons met at the University of Central Oklahoma in the first round of the playoffs. Last season they had fallen short, losing 57-74 against the Broncos in the first round. This season, the Griffons went into the game with the determination to win. They played their hearts out to the very end of the game, but they had a heart-breaking loss, losing by one point 72-73.

"I was glad we had the opportunity to play UCO again because they knocked us out the tournament last year," senior Dareon Jones said. "I was excited to be out there playing them again, but unfortunately we didn't win."

The Griffons ended their season with a record of 8-11 in the MIAA conference and had an overall record of 12-15. Upcoming junior Wesley Mitter believes in the confidence of the upcoming team.

"Next year we are looking forward to building upon the year we had this year," Mitter said. "We are excited to put the work in during off-season, and then have the opportunity to go out next year and compete and grow even more as a team and program."

| Story: Tiffany Gillaspay |

| Photos: John Ellis |

| Design & Graphic: Jessika Eidson |

# MEN'S GOLF

[ Story, Design & Graphic: Jessika Eidson ]

This year, the men's golf team took a huge step in the right direction. Moving over 40 slots in national ranking, the team definitely made a name for themselves.

"We had some ups and downs, but I felt we had more ups than we had downs," coach Greg Dillon said. "Obviously the biggest upside is watching the kids go from a team that was ranked 129th in the nation to 73rd."

Photo courtesy  
of Gene Cassell,  
Washburn Athletics.

The team played in 10 tournaments across the country, averaging a score of 305.1 as a team. They placed third at the Missouri Intercollegiate Championships in Sunrise Beach, Missouri, as well as second at the Henderson State First Federal Invite in Mountain Home, Arkansas.

The team started their season with two goals: to make it to regionals and to win the conference. While the team did not meet either of these goals, their hard work and positive attitudes took them further than they had gone any season.

"We came up short on both ends, but in doing so we raised the bar in the quality of playing across the board," Dillon said.

The team not only did well as a whole, but also saw some of its players succeed over the season. Corey Knight, Scott Sheldon, Jakob Rudosky and James O'Brien all finishing in the top 20 a total of 12 times. Knight, Sheldon, Rudosky and Ryan Hand all finished in the top 10 a total of eight times. Finally, Knight and Hand both finished in the top five a total of four times.

Although the team did not make it to the regional competition, they saw one of their newest players make it to second in the competition. Knight lost by only four strokes while competing on Cog Hill, a PGA tournament course. For coach Dillon, this was his proudest moment of the season.

"[My proudest moment was] watching

Corey Knight plays at the Washburn University Invite. This year Knight made a hole-in-one at Cob Hill, a PGA tournament course.

Photo courtesy of Henderson State Athletics.



Ryan Hand competes at the Bear State Bank Invitational. Hand had a average score of 76.0 for the season.

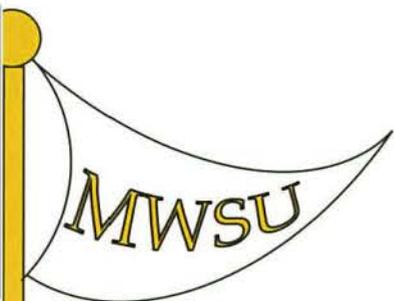
Corey make it through to regionals and seeing him just miss going to the [Division 2] championship,” Dillon said. “But by the same token, that’s a very positive sign. It really wasn’t an end to the season; it really is just a continuation when the [players] get back in August.”

Knight hopes he’ll be able to use his experience next year when he will be in a position of senior leadership.

“It was a really great experience,” Knight said. “Hopefully I can take that experience back to the team so they know what needs to be done to get to that level.”

The team hopes to get to that next level by staying consistent in their performance for each tournament.

“This year there were a couple of tough tournaments where we just didn’t get the job done,” Knight said. “Hopefully this year we put ourselves in that position this year and get the job done.”



- Missouri Intercollegiate Championships-3rd
- Lincoln Invitational-6th
- 2014 Brickyard Crossing Intercollegiate-6th
- 16th Annual NSU Men’s Classic-10th
- Holiday Inn Express Classic-8th
- Dave Falconer Classic-8th
- Broncho Invitational by RCB Bank-10th
- Henderson State First Federal Invite-2nd
- Washburn Invitational-6th
- MIAA Championships-7th

Coach Dillon hopes to make it to the regionals and win the conference in the upcoming year despite seeing seniors Scott Sheldon and James O’Brien graduate along with graduate assistant Natalie Bird.

“I think we have the potential,” Dillon said. “Even next year with some of the new [players] we’ll have coming in, the stage will be set with what this team did the previous year.”

Knight is also looking forward to the new members and the competition they will bring for next year.

“This year coming up, we’ll be one of the teams to watch out for now that’s we’ve put ourselves on the map,” Knight said.

Tiffany Gillapsy scoops up a ground ball. Gillapsy was nominated for woman of the year for the NCAA.



Taylor Schaben pitches to Central Missouri player. Schaben pitched in two games this season.



Shortstop Shelbie Atwell goes after a stray ball. Atwell had an average of .905 in the field this season.



# Griffon Softball

| Story: Thomas Marshall |

| Photos: John Ellis |

| Design & Graphic: Jessika Eidson |

This year has been a good one for the Griffon softball team. While their season started slow, they achieved a 16 game win streak by the end of March. This bumped their overall record up to 25-9 and 10-2 in the MIAA.

When watching one of the softball games, it's not hard to tell why the team is taking names this season. Their chemistry and overall performance together on the field is incredible, so much so that two of their players received awards for MIAA Players of the Week. Tiffany Gillaspay was named Hitter of the Week after driving in 15 runs, and Janie Smith was named Pitcher of the Week for allowing just seven earned runs in 34 innings. The start was slow, but the team worked together to constantly fine tune their performance.

"It took us a while with a few new people on the infield," player Shelbie Atwell said. "We had to learn how the other works, and we all came together as a team."

Their work certainly showed on the field. The Griffon softball team is in the NFCA's top 20 teams in the nation, an appearance that comes from their season win streak and marks the first time they are in the top 20 this season. In order to get to this point, the team picked up wins over

teams like Lindenwood, Winona State and Augustana College.

"We're meshing pretty well right now," player Janie Smith said. "Things are working pretty well for us."

While the season winning streak is great, the softball team plays everything one game at a time. They have approached every game resolutely; they do not take opponents lightly. Their season shows just how serious the Griffons take the game, and that they are not an opponent to underestimate.



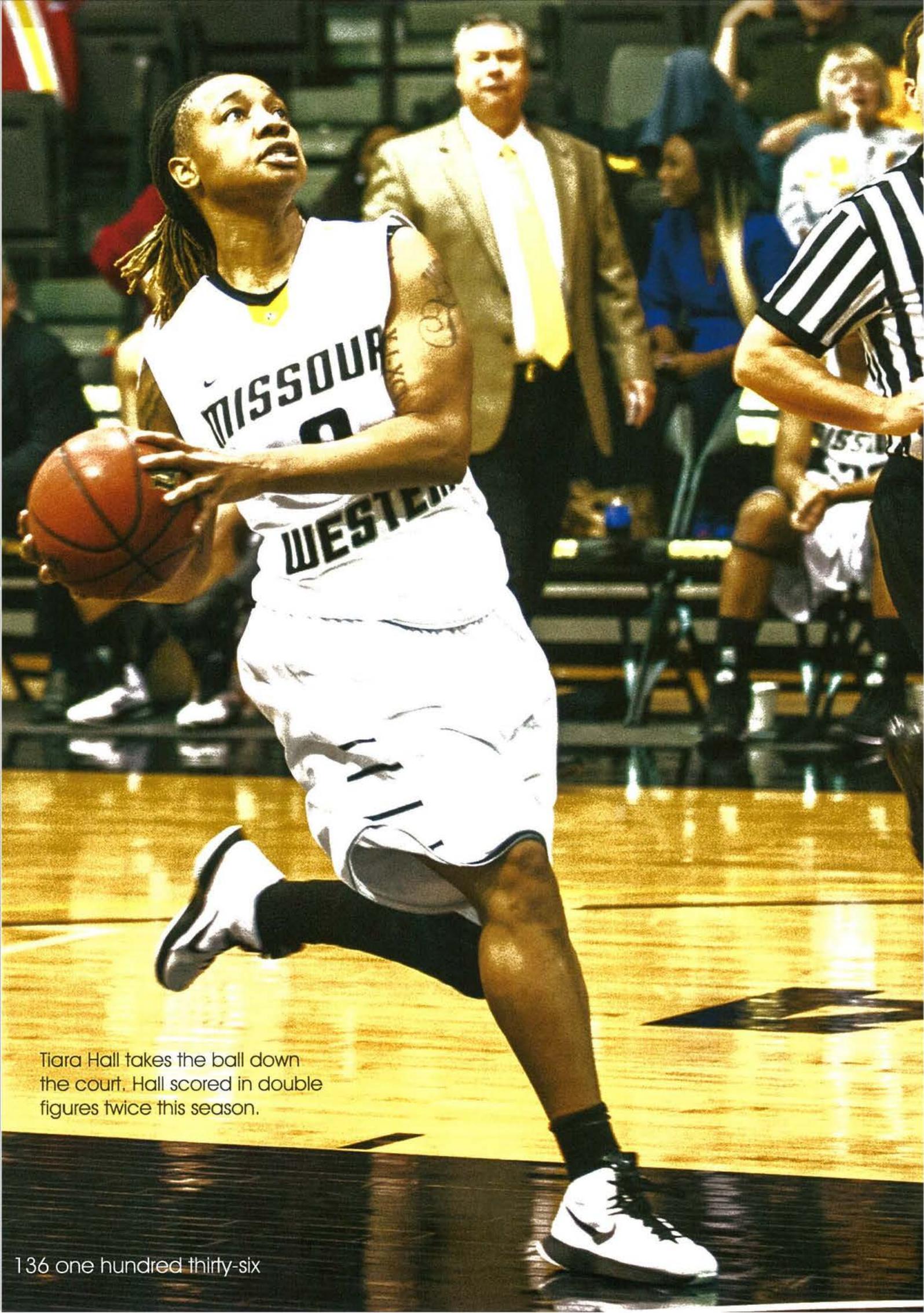
With a massive amount of hits and runs, the Griffons flex their muscles as they run through every ranking team. When compared to the slow start of the season, they have come a long way.

"We have to make sure we're focused and do the little things right," coach Jennifer Bagley Trotter said. "We need to play hard to not only win, but win the way we want to win."

Even during the games in which the players didn't feel like they were giving their all, their drive and determination still pushed them forward to take the win. The streak they had created during the 2015 season was well earned and their stats display a team with a shared focus; to be the best they can be. Griffon softball is on top, and there's no indication of them slowing down.



First baseman Kailey Green hits from home plate. Green had a batting average of .295 this season.



Tiara Hall takes the ball down the court. Hall scored in double figures twice this season.

# Women's Basketball



In just three years under Head Coach Rob Edmisson, Missouri Western State University's women's basketball team has gone from last in the MIAA conference to tying for fifth place. With the goal to get better each year, the Griffons finished 15-12 this season with a 9-10 conference record.

The Griffons accomplished another goal by making it to the conferencing tournament and earning a home court advantage in the first round where they defeated Lincoln University 80-56. They fell to Emporia State University 60-77, ending their season in the second round in Kansas City, Missouri.

In January, Emporia, who were ranked first in the nation at the time, helped the Griffons realize they were not far from being just as good as the top of their league.

The Griffons saw five seniors graduate this year: Friday Chuol, Kyrsten Crawford, Tiara Hall, Ariana Novak and team captain Alex Saxen.

Although they are losing five seniors, they have returning key players who played a big role in the season's accomplishments. Junior LaQuinta Jefferson finished the season as the lead scorer for the MIAA, averaging 20.2 points a game. Junior Sarafina Handy lead in three-point field goals made, averaging 2.7 per game, and sophomore Chelsea Dewey finished third in assists, averaging 3.9 per game. The team as a whole ranked second in offensive scoring, averaging 72.4 points a game, just under Pittsburg State who averaged 72.6.

Edmisson formerly coached at Hutchinson Community College and likes to recruit junior college players into his program. Ten out of the twelve players on the roster are transfer students from the junior college level.

"I like transfer players and the maturity they bring to the program," Edmisson said.

Self-expectations of the staff and players are high for the 2015-2016 season with hopes of a conference title.

[ Story: Tiffany Gillaspay ]

[ Photos: John Ellis ]

[ Design & Graphic: Jessika Eidson ]



Ariana Novak passes Lauren Meyers from Rockhurst University. Novak scored double figures in three games this season.

Callie Wilson tees off. Wilson finished in the top 10 three times this season.



# Women's Golf

The young women's golf team shows promise in the years to come for Missouri Western State University. This year's team is graduating no seniors and returning with strong underclassmen.

"It's really exciting to see some of the success we had with such a young team," junior Callie Wilson said.

The Griffons had a strong start finishing in the top 10 in the first three tournaments including second at the UNK Invitational with windy conditions. They also had strong finishes as individuals with almost every player always finishing in the top 25.

The conference tournament was held in Lawrence, Kansas, at the Alvamar Golf Club. The female golf team finished in seventh place after three rounds, just three strokes behind Northwest Missouri State.



**Central Regional Fall Preview- 7th**  
**16th Annual NSU Golf Classic-4th**  
**FHSU Invitational-4th**  
**Central Oklahoma-9th**  
**Lindenwood Fall Invite-4th**  
**MWSU/Holiday Inn Express Classic-7th**  
**UNK Women's Invitational-7th**  
**Henderson State First Federal Invite-4th**  
**Central Region Spring Preview-12th**  
**MIAA Tournaments-7th**



Amber Chivington takes her swing. Chivington finished 15th at the Northwest Missouri State Bearcat Fall Invite.

Freshman Celine Lim from Selangor, Malaysia, was the top-finisher for the

Griffons, capturing twelfth place with a score of 246. Lim is the only member of Western's team to qualify for the NCAA Central Regional Tournament. She will be playing along with the men's qualifier Corey Knight. This is the first time in school history both teams have qualified for post season in the same year.

The team is excited to see what next year brings. Second year head coach Greg Dillon thinks both teams have made headway this year.

"We are just getting to the point now where we are relevant in the central region," Dillon said.

With the team returning all of their players the team has high expectations for next year.

[ Story: Blair Russell ]

[ Photos: John Ellis ]

[ Design & Grpahic: Jessika Eidson ]



# Womens' Soccer

The Griffon soccer team ended their record-breaking season in a heartbreaker against Fort Hays State University. The Griffons were 9-9-1 this season and 6-7-1 in MIAA conference play. They also broke more than 20 records this season.

“There were a lot of highs and a lot of lows in the season, but the difference was the way we responded to difficulty,” Katie Kempf said. “That made us more successful.”

The 2014 team was the first to make it to the MIAA conference tournament and ranked in the NCAA Central Region poll for the first time. Many other records were broken this season with most wins at nine, the fewest losses at eight and fewest ties at only one.

The Griffons jumped off with a 3-0 to start the season. Within their season, the Griffons had a five game winning streak, as well as a three game losing streak.

“In the past we weren’t able to bounce back from a

losing streak, but this year we did, and that’s what set us apart from any other year,” Head Coach Chad Edwards said.

The Griffons are a much-improved team from the years past. When there is talent and chemistry, and the two are put together, teams can do amazing things. This is exactly what the 2014 team did.

“This was the best team that I have had since I have been here, the talent was there and they showed it,” Coach Edwards said.

The Griffons kept level-heads, whether they were winning or losing, and because of this they set many school records.

“It felt amazing breaking all these records.” Senior K.C. Ramsell said. “It shows that we are building as a program, and are able to compete at a high level that the MIAA is.”

Edwards believes that all of this started in the pre-season. The team members bonded, had good chemistry and all believed in one another.

“It was helpful that everyone was on the same page, and willing to work towards a common goal,” Kempf said.

The team graduated four key seniors this year: K.C. Ramsell, Teddi Serna, Tara Russell and A.J. Powers who all ended their careers on a very good note. The soccer team will miss these four seniors, but the team is working extra hard this next pre-season to improve.

The team is hungry for more as they go into the 2015 season. The players now understand what it feels like to be in the conference tournament, and next fall they will strive to get back into the conference tournament.

“Now we know what we are capable of,” Kempf said. “We need to improve upon that and strive to not only make post-season, but to win the tournament.”

The soccer team plans to build on their 2014 season. With all their hard work, the Griffons look forward to the new season.

Story: Tiffany Gillaspy ]  
Photos: John Ellis ]  
Design: Jessika Eidson ]



K.C. Ramsell blocks a kick by Central Missouri State University. Ramsell scored the game winning goal against Southwest Baptist University this season.



[Right] Bridget Blessie dribbles the ball past a Northeastern State University. Blessie scored two game-winning goals this season.

[Left] Bridget Blessie defends against Northeastern State University. Blessie played 19 games this season.



# Women's Tennis

A new coach and a new attitude lead Griffons to a great season

[ Story & Design: Jessika Eidson ]

[ Photos: John Ellis ]

[ Graphic: Sarika Gongolla ]

Ceara Boldridge takes a mid-court volley during a match against visiting Baker University. The Griffons defeated Baker 8-1 in a match played at the new Griffon tennis courts.



With a new coach, new players and a new attitude, the women's tennis team gave fans something to cheer for. Not only did they have the highest team GPA at Missouri Western with a 3.5, but they also won 10 more matches than last season.

This year, the Griffons hired their first full-time coach, Chris Canady. Canady definitely took the team to a higher level a success, leading them to win as many matches as the last three seasons combined.

"I think one big reason [for success] was we got a full-time coach instead of a part-time coach," junior Meara Smith said. "Also it helps that we had a couple more girls come in. So we had more competitive practices with the players who came in, and that really helped us as a team."

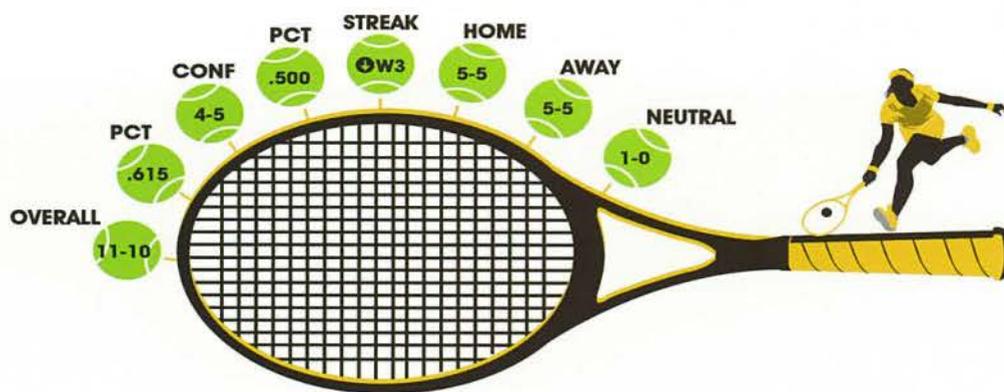
New team members and a new coach helped change the attitude of the entire team to push them to win more this season.

“We kind of made some changes with our culture and what was expected of them,” Canady said. “We also added three new players, which was helpful because they all played at the top of our lineup and they definitely made our team a lot stronger. I think experience of some of our upper classmen, and bringing in three new players kind of brought the team together.”

The team started the year wanting to go beyond what previous teams had. They made a goal to break all of their single season school records, and managed to break all but one.

The team also wanted to create a more positive and competitive environment. Canady had a difficult time at the beginning of the season getting the team to understand that they could play at a higher level than previous years in which the team had struggled.

“There was just that belief that they could win matches,



especially close matches,” Canady said. “So that was probably the most difficult thing, but I feel like we did a better job of that than we probably anticipated.”

Canady’s positive attitude and diverse coaching gave the players the push they needed to succeed this year.

“[Canady] is really good with the psychological, the mental toughness,” Smith said. “He knows exactly what to say to us, and he knows how to coach different styles of games. I think that really helped all of us.”

Despite losing a few close matches, the team’s positive attitude kept them from being discouraged.

“We played William Jewell and we lost to them; it just wasn’t a good match,” Canady said. “I was really proud of how we responded, how honest the girls were about maybe their effort level and just some things like that, and how we were able to come back and do well for the rest of the season. Even though we lost some close matches, I felt like we played well the rest of the way. After a tough loss like that to William Jewell we could have easily gotten frustrated and quit, but we practiced harder, played harder and played more for each other.”

Next year the team hopes to go even further than this season.

“We want to finish top three in our conference, and make regionals,” Canady said. “Really the rest is to keep building onto the things that we got started this year. We’ll have a couple new players, at least two, maybe three. [We’ll be] making sure they get integrated into the team and things like that.”

Finishing top three and making it to regionals will be tough, but the team believes they will be able to see these goals met.

“That’s going to take a lot of hard work and dedication,” Smith said. “Those are very realistic goals I think we can do.”

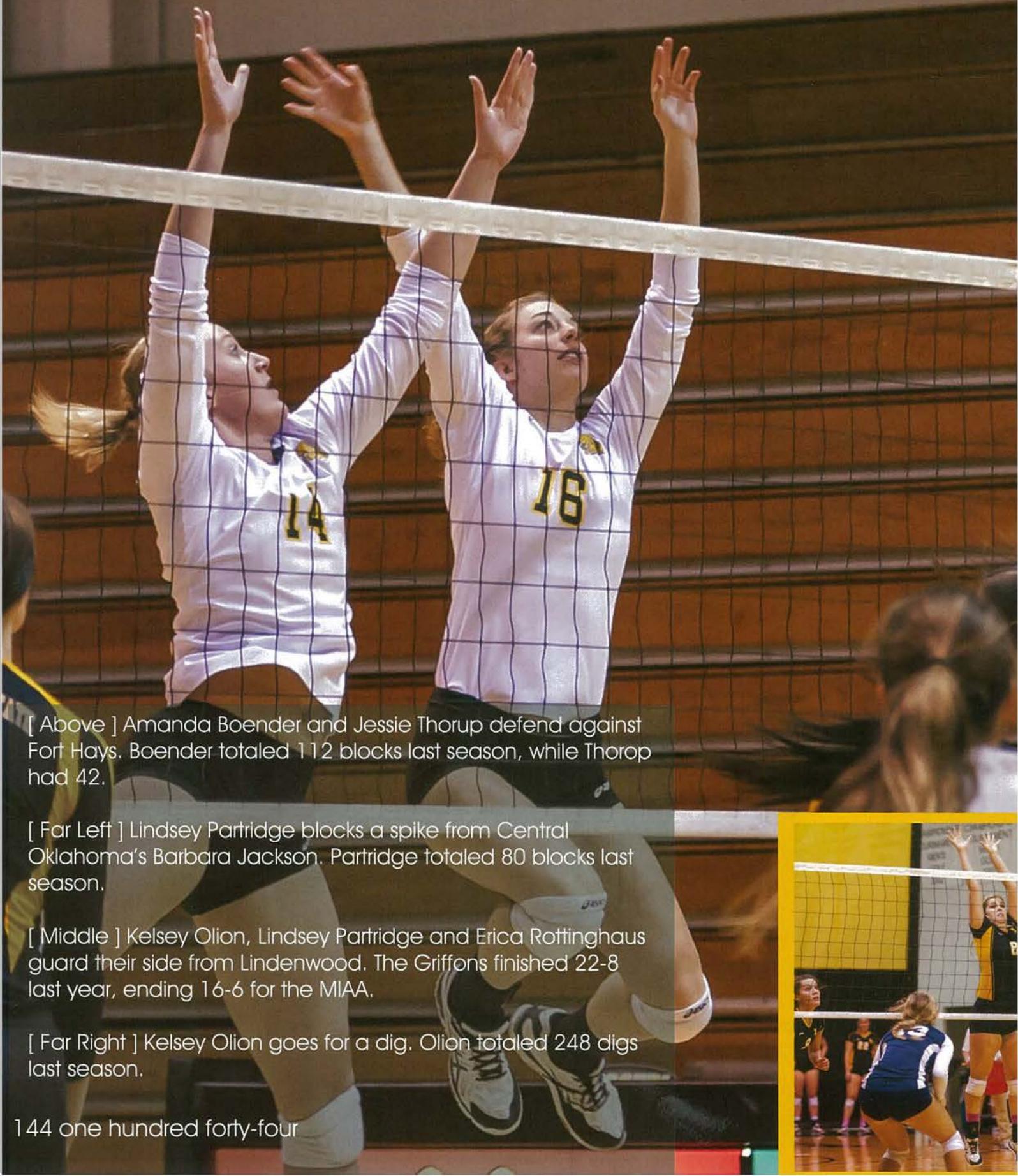
If the team continues meeting the new standard they set this year, surely Western will see great things from them.



Sarah Giraldo returns a backhand shot during a match against Baker University. The Griffons defeated Baker 8-1 in a match played at the new Griffon tennis courts.

# Griffon Volleyball

[ Story: Tiffany Gillaspy ]  
[ Photos: John Ellis ]  
[ Design: Jessika Eidson ]

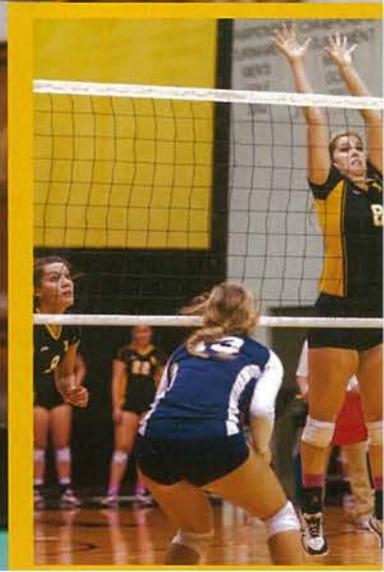


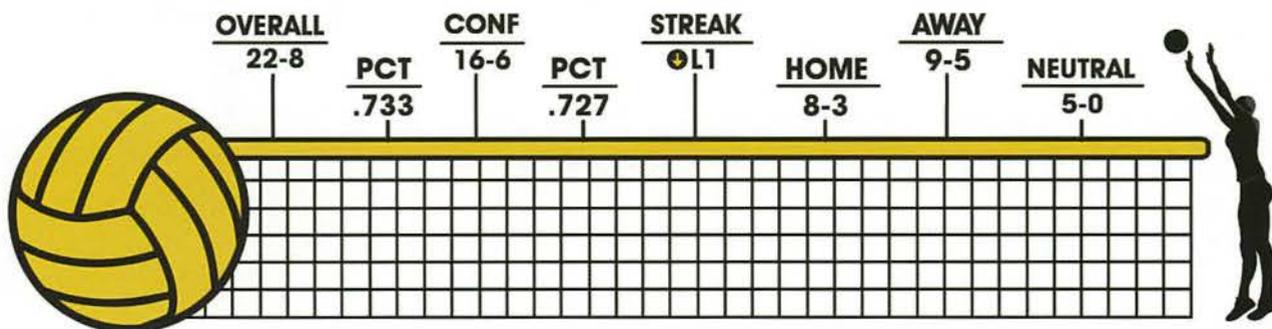
[ Above ] Amanda Boender and Jessie Thorup defend against Fort Hays. Boender totaled 112 blocks last season, while Thorup had 42.

[ Far Left ] Lindsey Partridge blocks a spike from Central Oklahoma's Barbara Jackson. Partridge totaled 80 blocks last season.

[ Middle ] Kelsey Olion, Lindsey Partridge and Erica Rottinghaus guard their side from Lindenwood. The Griffons finished 22-8 last year, ending 16-6 for the MIAA.

[ Far Right ] Kelsey Olion goes for a dig. Olion totaled 248 digs last season.





Griffon Volleyball came off of a great season this year. The Griffons were 22-8 on the season and 16-6 in the MIAA conference. The Griffons ended the season with the most wins in the program's history since 1997. On Sept. 20, 2014, the Griffons swept Auburn University in three sets. The Griffons wrapped their season on a loss to #17, the University of Central Missouri. They battled hard, but they just could not pull through.

The Griffons biggest accomplishment was not just beating Northwest Missouri State University and Auburn University, the team accomplished the goals they had set at the beginning of the season.

"Our team chemistry was strong and that carried out on the court, and I think that has something to say about why we were so successful," senior Sarah Faubel said.

Head Coach Marian Carbin followed four guiding principles: excellence, discipline, passion and compete. For that word, the team had a separate shirt. Whichever shirt the team wore in practice is the principle they focused on that day.

The Griffons graduated four seniors including Erica Rottinghaus and Sarah Faubel. They were selected for Capital One Academic All-America first team. Rottinghaus was also picked as honorable mention on the American Volleyball Coaches Association All-American list. Rottinghaus led the team with 396 kills for a 3.6 kills per set and ranked fifth in the MIAA in kills per set average. She was second on the team with 438.5 points and third with 59 total blocks. She was also second on the team with 279 digs. Rottinghaus was also named first

team All-MIAA, first team AVCA All-District, received an MIAA Scholar Athlete Award and MIAA Academic Honor Roll.

"Erica is one of the most level headed players I have coached, she has a great mental approach to the game," coach Carbin said. "She is so passionate about the game."

Faubel finished her career as the all-time digs leader. She finished with 427 this season and 1,799 for her career. She averaged four digs per set.

"Faubel will be missed, she has so much experience and you cannot teach that as a coach," Carbin said.

Coach Carbin pushed her players to be mentally tough. She changed their whole mentality and really focused on the game.

"Going in to last season she really focused on making us believe in ourselves," Faubel said.

With losing four experienced seniors, coach Carbin said that the off-season will be spent as an individual focus.

"We lost four key players with our seniors graduating, but we are doing really well with the new leadership from our next senior class," sophomore Kelsey Olion said. "It has been fun building our new team dynamic."

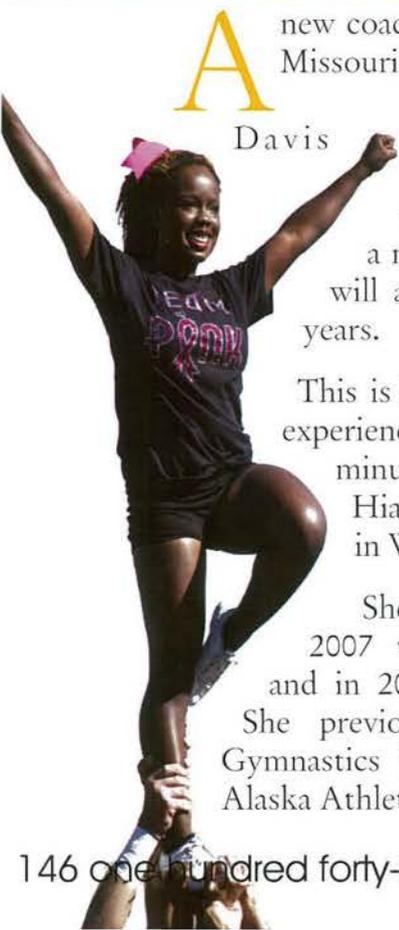
The Griffons are working hard in the weight room and on the court to do even better next year. Carbin's program took big steps in the right direction with this past season, which pushed this new team to work even harder in the off-season to take them to the next level.





# Frequent Flyers

## Head coach leads Western cheer squad to new heights



**A** new coach means a new team for the Missouri Western State University cheerleading squad. Amanda Davis takes her place as Western's new cheerleading coach for the 2014-2015 season and has a new vision of what the squad will accomplish in the upcoming years.

This is Davis' first college coaching experience and has enjoyed every minute of it. Davis was born in Hiawatha, Kansas, but grew up in Wasilla, Alaska.

She moved back to Kansas in 2007 to start her college career and in 2009 moved to Saint Joseph. She previously coached for MEGA Gymnastics in St. Joseph and Alaska Athletics in Wasilla.

Her goals for the squad this year included growing a strong team that works well together and to be recognized for everything they do throughout the year.

"My personal goal as a coach is to help my team grow in skill level," Davis said.

This year the team consisted of 14 members with only one senior, Meredith Hughes. The team was led by five co-captains: senior Meredith Hughes, junior Shae Fannon, junior Katie Griffith, sophomore Rachel Allen and sophomore Brittany White.

The squad enjoyed the changes Davis brought to the program. Allen felt like the squad genuinely enjoyed coming to practices and events this year and had fun doing it.

"[Davis] has put us into shape and made it fun at the same time," Allen said.

[Left] Brittany White, a flyer for the Western cheerleaders, practicing for the Missouri Western Homecoming game. White was one of the co-captains in 2014.



Above ] Western cheerleaders wait for half-time in Looney gym. The cheer squad performed at several sporting events throughout the year.

[ Below ] The Western cheer squad practices their routine in Spratt Stadium. Each member of the squad worked to bring school spirit to athletic events.



Davis also gave the squad the opportunity to participate at a cheer camp this year. Next year, the squad hopes to qualify and compete at Cheer Nationals. To get the chance to compete, they must get a bid at a cheer camp or be chosen as a top contender through video submission.

This year at cheer camp, the squad was able to get a half bid to go to Nationals, but didn't have the funds to pay the other half. With next year's tryouts approaching quickly, they can't wait to see what next year brings.

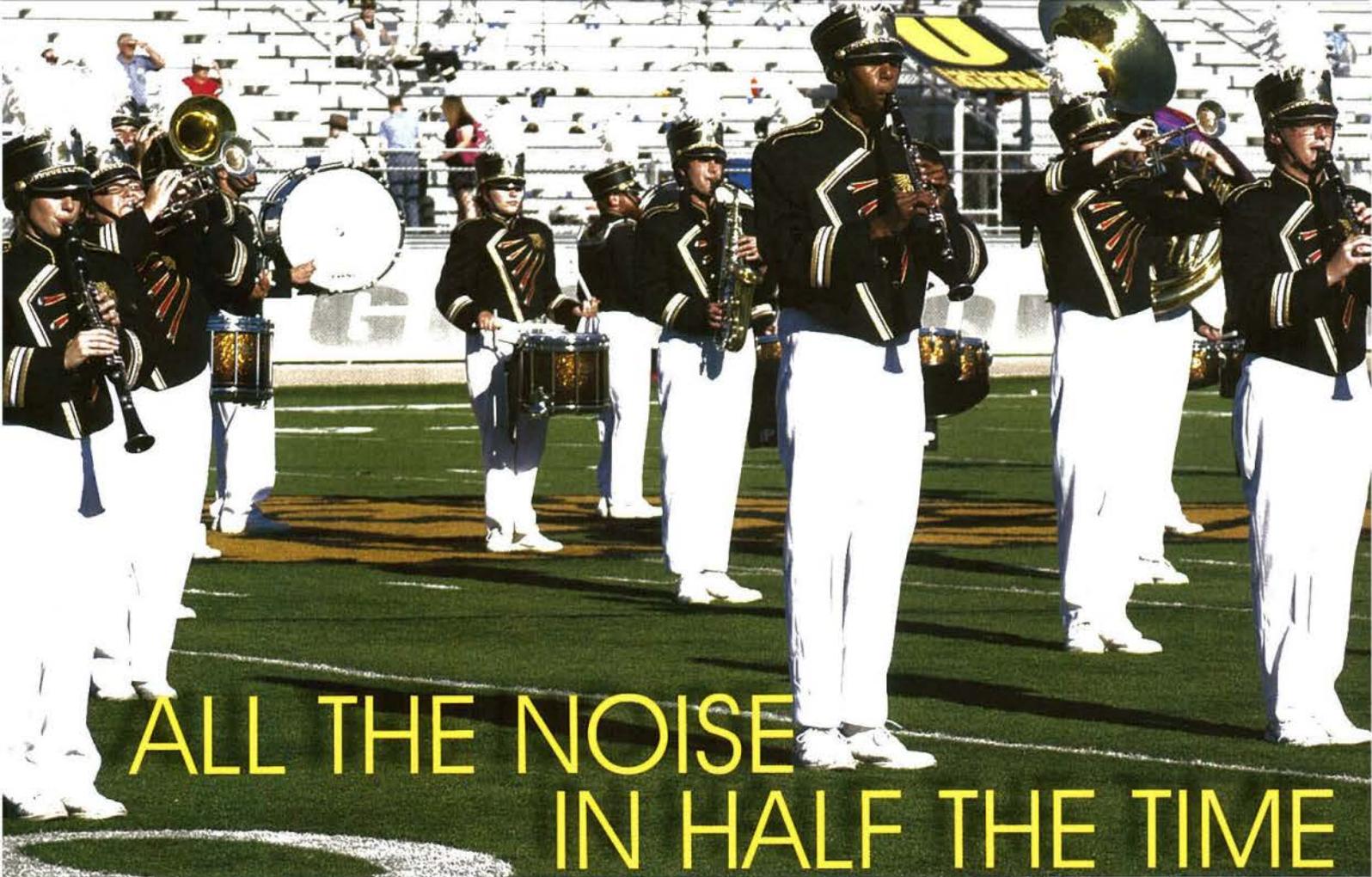
The squad aims to bring school spirit back for game times and wants to encourage Western students to pack the bleachers, always wear school colors and participate in the crowd!

"Teams always do better if they can hear the crowd cheering for them," Davis said.

| Story: Blair Russel |

| Photos: Blair Russel, Jodi Stamback |

| Design: Jessika Eidson |



# ALL THE NOISE IN HALF THE TIME

## Golden Griffon Marching Band brings energy to half time show

Every year, Missouri Western State University students get excited when football season rolls around. While the games have everything you would expect from football such as large crowds, concession stands and announcers, there's one thing that sets Griffon football games apart: The Golden Griffon Marching Band.

The band is a staple at Western home games and they have been bringing the noise for years. They perform before every single home game during half-time. With over 140 people in the band, they are not afraid to make themselves known.

"The band brings so much energy to home football games," band director Nathan Gay said.

148 one hundred forty-eight



"I love that we can feed off of the energy in the stadium and bring our own energy as well."

Three key components go into creating the band that lights up Western home games. The brass section, which features instruments such as trumpets and tubas, brings a powerful, full sound to the band's dynamic. The drumline keeps the band going with tempo and provides groundwork for the horn section to build off of. Last, but certainly

[ Above ] The Marching Band performs in Spratt Stadium during a home game. The marching band was directed by Nathan Gay.

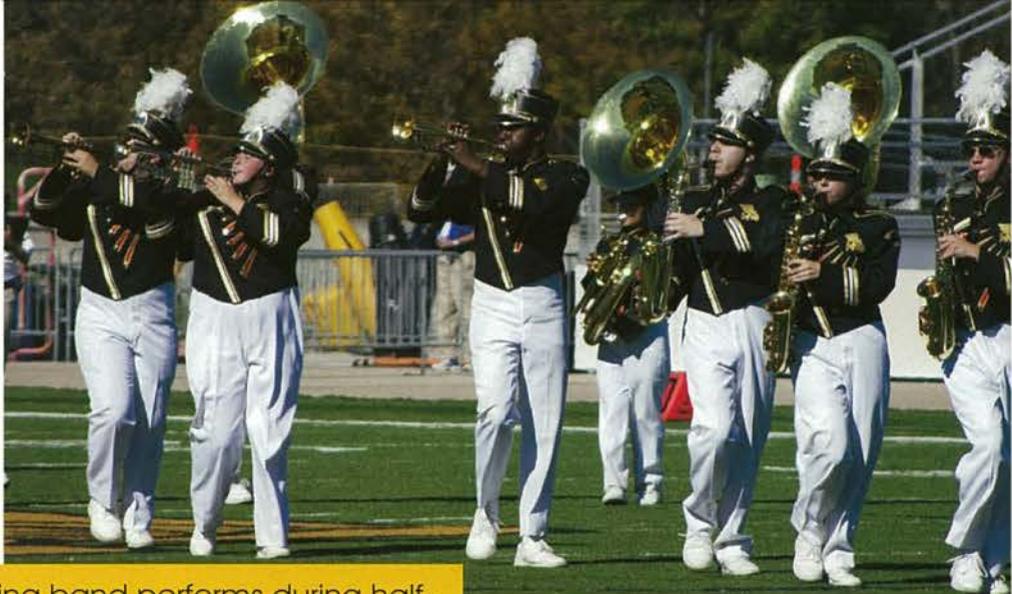
[ Left ] Nick Rede performs during half-time show. The marching band was made up of many musicians and performers.

At least, The Golden Griffon Guard and the Mystics dance team work together to create a visual flair for the performances.

While the band has enhanced school-related performances this year such as the Homecoming parade, they also performed at the South Side Parade and were the hosts of The Tournament of Champions. At the tournament, more than 20 local area marching bands come together to share their performances and compete as national level judges score them.

Although The Golden Griffon Marching Band has a lot on their plate, they work hard to prepare themselves.

The members of the band begin practicing for the upcoming



Marching band performs during half-time. The Golden Griffon Marching Band consists of over 140 members.

season mid-way through every summer. One week before classes, band camp takes place. The band comes to school for a full week of marching drills, music rehearsals

and exercises. Once classes start, the band practices for two hours every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Each section also has to do a one hour sectional outside of practice. While it seems like a lot to take in, band member Arthur Malo says it's all about how you plan it.

"Time management becomes the most crucial thing. If you have all of your ducks in a row, and have anything put down on your calendar, then it'll get extremely overwhelming, and stressful," Malo said.

This is extremely important for incoming freshman who don't want to be weighed down by their schedules. Prioritizing makes the transition into the band smoother, a transition which is already easier due to the welcoming nature of the band. It's always sad to see members graduate, but fresh faces are always happily added to the mix.

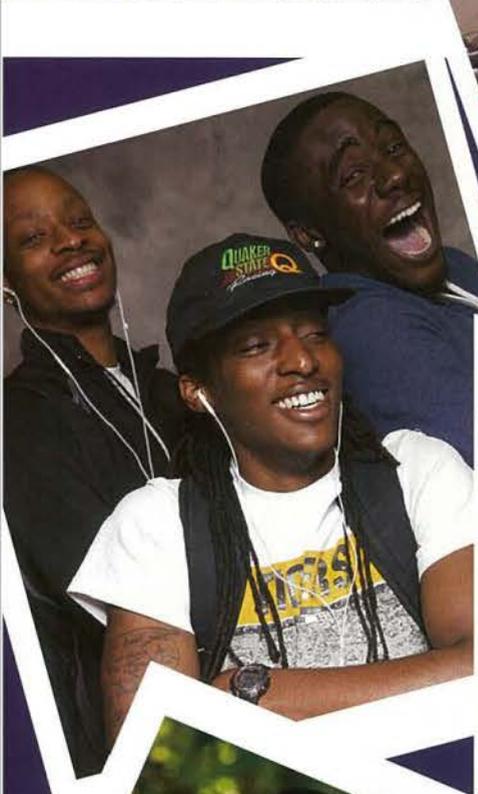
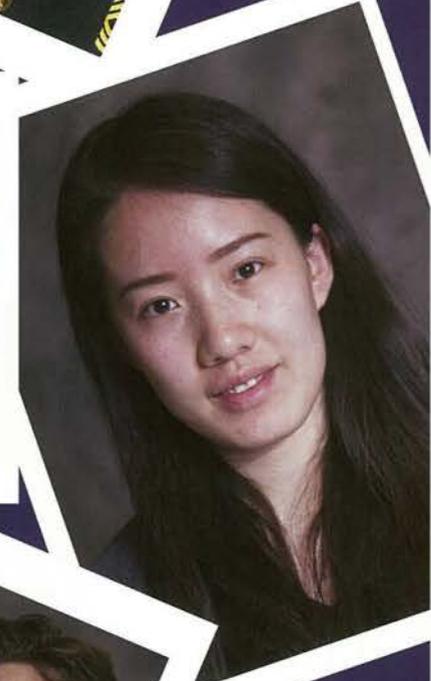
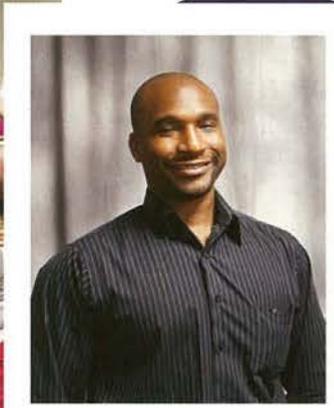
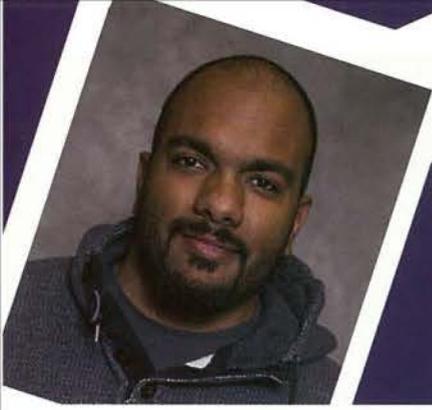
"It's fun to get to see new faces every season, because it really shows that the band is growing," band member Shian McBee said. "Having new faces in the group is beneficial to the ensemble as a whole."

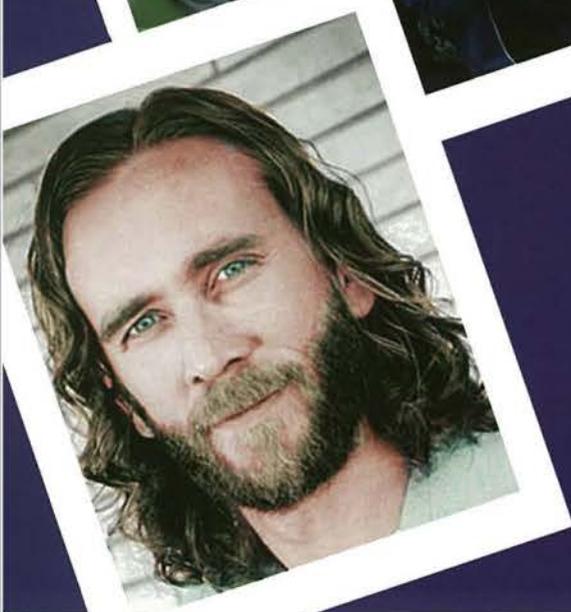
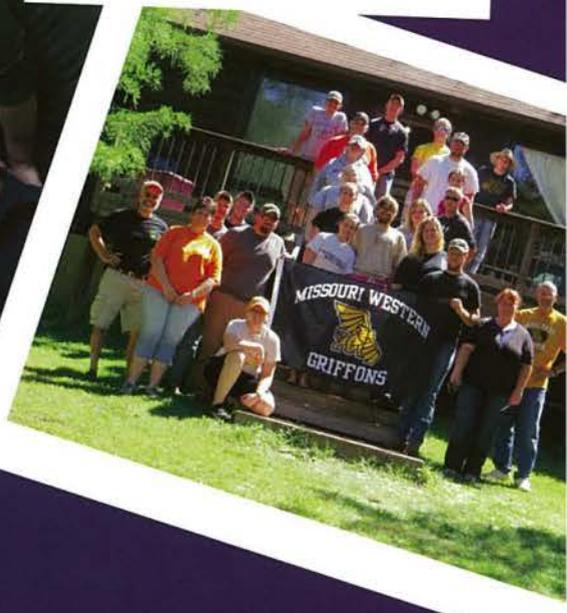
The Golden Griffon Marching Band is a bunch that keeps on going. They've seen members come and go all the time but still push themselves to deliver a great performance and be the best they can be. They add a constantly exciting element to Griffon football home games and with an ever growing resume, who knows what they're going to do next.



Maranda Sutton performs with the dance team. The marching band included a dance team in each performance.

[ Story: Thomas Marshall ]  
[ Photos: Jodi Stamback ]  
[ Design: Jessika Eidson ]





# Portraits & Organizations

# GRIFFON STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

## Alpha Gama Delta



[ Front ] Brooke Meyer, Shelby Dier, Kayla Riley, Brittany Snyder, Aliyah Ford, Christine Ray  
[ 2nd Row ] Alayna Mazzeffe, Chelsea Hess, Jamie Fitzgerald, Sireena Hazen, Ashley Filipelli,  
Ashley Schwertel, Lynn Jordan [ 3rd Row ] Alviuna Watkins, Jaime Stokes, Morgan DeMoss,  
Taylor Mathias, Jenna Kirkbride, Caitlyn Prater, Sarah Jones, Chandler Gossett [ 4th Row ] Taylor Porter,  
Shannon Nolan, Elizabeth Young [ Back ] Cali Welch, Jessie Brown, Chevy Ingebritson, April Smith,  
Candice Jenkins, Nina Gray, Abby Davidson

## Alpha Kappa Psi



[ Front ] Whitney Norton, Miu Sutton, Cortney Moncrief, Alayna Meneses, Skylar Glawson, Brittany  
White, Victoria Byerley, Teddi Serna, Gabby Sole [ Middle ] Juliann Smith, Timbre Gardner, Kathy  
O'Donnell, Shaina Mixon, Sadie Naumann, Paige Shelter, Keara Dudley, Shelby Berkemeier, Austin  
Klarin, Brian Popp, Courtney Dykes [ Back ] Kamille Paden, Breannah Nissen, Alex Lutz, Fabian Heil,  
Tom Molloy, Clayton Maupin, Christopher Smith, Nathan Nold, Colton Saunders,  
Austin Elder, Tina Goodrick

## Alpha Psi Omega



[ Front ] Nerissa Lee, Skyla Booth, Linnea Edlin, Antonio Daniels-Braziel, Charles Jordan Jinkerson  
[ Middle ] Jeff Jones, Kira Williams, Chris Rayle, Thomas Delgado, Shelby House  
[ Back ] Erik Burns-Sprung, Kelsey Garber, Abby Sexton, Lizzie Williams,  
Sonrisa Johnston, Riley Bayer

## Alpha Sigma Iota



[ Front ] Abby Sexton, Madeline Marx, Courtney Carter, Amanda Estep, Marissa Sunderland  
[ Middle ] Hayleigh Albers, Sydney Given, Corey Naeger, Kate Chapman  
[ Back ] Hanna Long, Samantha Schroeder, Sydnie Holzfast, Erin Bua

# Christian Fellowship



[ Front ] Esther Mason, Anna Randleman, Kara Streebin, Krystal Hicok, Marisa Jordan, Nancy Pitts  
[ Middle ] Kelsi Robling, Christine Ray, Joy Earl, Brayden Beauford, Chase Ford,  
Trevor Vaughan, Noah Baker, Quentin Rodney  
[ Back ] Chris Plank, Tom Pitts, Shelby Hicks, Josh Hughart, Mikey Turner, Scotty Blakley,  
Garrett Durbin, McCabe Davis, Rick Randleman

# Griffon News



[ Front ] Katelyn Canon, Christina Ruark, JaQuitta Dever, Mika Cummins, Jill Oswald, Krista Hague  
[ Middle ] Nick Ingram, Michael Penn, Zachary Papenberg, Daniel Cobb, Brendan Welch,  
Jess Kopp, Cassandra Daldrup,  
[ Back ] Jon Dykstra, Jacob Edwards, Cortez Colbert, Mason Marshall, Junna Resuma,  
Sydnie Holzfast, Huey Huey, Brent Rosenauer, Robert Bergland

## Griffon Update



[ Front ] Jeni Swope, Nerissa Lee, Andy Garrison  
[ Middle ] Taylor Allen, Krista Hague, Daniel Cobb  
[ Back ] Albert Shelby, Mason Marshall, Katelyn Canon, Elliot Swope

## Griffon Yearbook



[ Front ] Jeni Swope, Sarika Gongalla, Jess Voelk, Tiffany Gillaspay, Jessika Eidson  
[ Back ] Jodi Stamback, Elliot Swope, Sunny Reddy-Medapati,  
Thomas Marshall, Blair Russell, James Carviou

## International Student Club



[ Front ] Rashed Alhajri, Yousef Alyehyawi, Mohammed Albarjas,  
Deir Montiel Dominguez, Javier Paz

## Newman Center



[ Front ] Matthew Ball, Alex Luke, Matthew Cline, Erin Sprenger, Genevieve Stoops  
[ Back ] Matt Scholz, Paul Godberson, Leeds Haroldson, Chris Crawford, Johnathan Ottinger

## Politics Club



[ Front Row ] Taylor McGrath, Madeline Marx  
[ Back Row ] Austin Bauer, Tom Molloy, Melinda Kovacs, Dr. Edwin Taylor, Dr. Jon Euchner

## Pride Alliance



[ Front ] Jill Harris, Maranny Svay  
[ Back ] Kate Chapman, Derek Hurd, Taylor McGrath,  
Mackenzie Hardin, Layla Bussus

## Psi Chi



[ Front ] Gabrielle Isom, Ella Lembke, Elizabeth Herlihy, Jordan Cayton,  
Rebekah Justin, Ashley Sylvara, Amber Imbiri  
[ Back ] Dawn Dussetschleger, Shelby Hicks, Caytlin Francis, Makenna Snyder,  
Tamra Cruz, Kelsea Leidy

## Residential Hall Association



[ Front ] Joshua McKenzie, Austin Edwards, Kaela McKenzie  
[ Back ] Nathan Roberts, Erin Sprenger, Lanny Leivan

## Student Government Association



[ Front ] Nicole Lucas, Jessica Hazlehorst, Kendra Greer, Megan Helt, Ida Haefner, Jacob Teasley  
[ Middle ] Jacob Dowell, Julia Buescher, Connor Samenus, Alec Guy, Brandon Grieshaber,  
Haden McDonald, Austin Catron, Victoria Byerley, Cerra Edwards  
[ Back ] Tony Dougherty, Dylan Barnes, Charles Flemons, Tyler O'Neill, Daniel Hager,  
Brian Shewell, Brent Rosenauer

## Shotgun Club



[ Front ] Zachary Evans, Aaron Person, Jodi Rhodes, JoAnna Massey, Andrew Hutchinson,  
[ Back ] William Boeh, Steven Brown, Justin Fry, Paul Godberson, Matt Scholz

## Student Ambassadors



[ Front ] Rachal Jackson, Kaylee Flood, Alison Stock, Paige Klocke  
[ 2nd Row ] Dillon Harp, Faith Kauffman, Jasmine Crame, Mackenzie Lovitt,  
Maggie Biggerstaff, Kelly Cochran, Ida Haefner, Peggy Payne  
[ 3rd Row ] Kristen Clements, Alayna Meneses, Paige Kneale, Sarah Triplett, Chris Rayle, Victoria  
Byerley, Lauren Stewart, Marissa Calabro, Jessie Walter  
[ Back ] Tra Qualls-Woods, Tom Molloy, Reyhan Wilkinson

## Student Honors



[ Front ] Colette Pierce, Ida Haefner, Faith Hoover, Krystal Hicok, Maggie Lee, Austin Catron  
[ Middle ] Lake Sisk, Logan McKenzie, Jones Cossity, Jill Harris, Madison Welde,  
Brooke Bernhardt, Crystal Snelling, Allie Holland  
[ Back ] Jordan Booth, Tom Molloy, Alex Stearns, Lauren Stewart, Mike Quaney,  
Connor Samenus, Eli Dodge

## Tri-Beta



[ Front ] Brock Couch [ First Row ] Michelle Moll, Carly Compton, Ben Luna, Zach Sanders, John McCulley, Dave Ashley, Mark Mills, Dawn Drake, Jaymes Hall, Csengele Barta, Tayla Messa [ 2nd Row ] Ida Haefner, Krista Hughes [ 3rd Row ] Alesha Matthes, Josh Chenoweth [ 4th Row ] Bridgett French-Harbison, Amanda Miller [ 5th Row ] Trent French Harbison, Alex Molloy [ Back ] Adam Shore, Keith Ringler, Kyle Roberts, Tyler Hughes

## Wildlife Society



[ Front ] Jordan Meyer, Mary Kate Wiley, Cassandra Daldrup, Sarah Davis, Virginia Williams, Jasmine Stalker, Cary D. Chevalier, Jamie Lynch, Jared Storman, Dyllyn Simerl, Daniel Robertson, Logan Krigbaum [ Back ] Casey Long, Calvin Wakefield, Allan Jernigan, Stephen Woolard, Mitchell Bembrick, Steven Brown, Coltin Ridenour, Carly Compton, Deric Bishop, Brad Thomas, Eli Eber, Bailey E. Bryan, Matthew Steinlage, Justin Fry, Cody Philips, Joey Evert

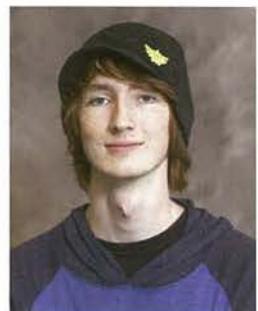
# GRIFFON STUDENTS

## Freshmen

Devon Adkins  
Kylan Alexander



Nikolas Alexandre Martinez  
Daniel Alfrey  
Hannah Alumbaugh  
Steven Aubert

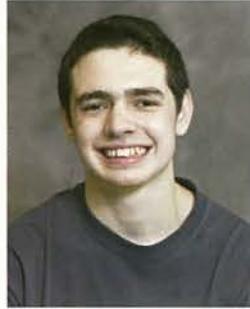


Danielle Austin  
Madison Baker  
Matthew Ball  
Rachael Bealer





Shelby Berkemeier  
 William Boeh  
 Shiloh Boles  
 Seth Bonifas



Heather Booth  
 Jordan Booth  
 Austin Bravo  
 Jordan Breckenridge



Kaitlyn Bruce  
 William Bryant  
 Lindy Budgett  
 Shaquille Burrows



Jordan Butler  
 Kennedy Byers  
 Jonathan Byrom  
 Jordan Caldwell

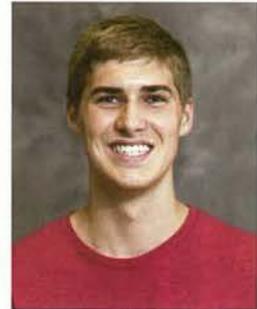


Makiya Cannon  
 Derek Carpenter  
 Camille Carter  
 Alison Clark

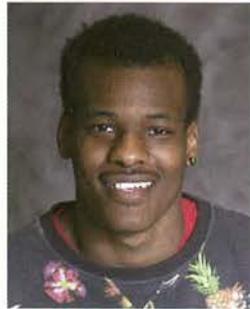
Matthew Cline  
 Carolyn Cooper  
 Steven Cooper  
 Carly Creekmore



Ismael Cristobal  
 Eduardo Cruz  
 Amanda Dalbey  
 Mccabe Davis



Terrill Davis  
 Derek Deangelis  
 Colby Deluna  
 Morgan Demoss



Madison Deshazo  
 Maria Dewey  
 Kaitlyn Doolan  
 Rebecca Dunaway



Jacolyn Durham  
 Austin Elder  
 Crystal Enciso  
 Levi Fajardo





Breah Flook  
 Sarah Flook  
 Ryan Forret  
 Kathryn Foster



Briena Frost  
 Grace Galbreath  
 Kelsey Garber  
 Jacob Gerardy



Malysa Giesken  
 Deshon Goodwin  
 Laura Gray  
 Brianna Gregg



Stephanie Gummelt  
 Elena Gutierrez  
 Zachary Halter  
 Tannis Hamilton

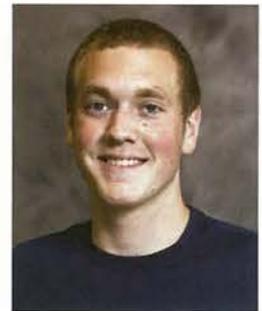


Courtney Handsome  
 Mackenzie Hardin  
 Steven Henderson  
 Kymberli Hendrinks

Riqueza Hendrix  
 Chelsea Hess  
 Shawna Hicks  
 Ravyn Highsmith



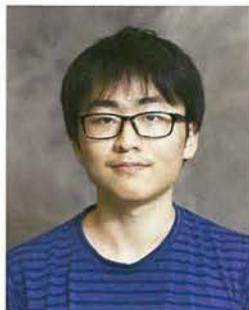
Amy Hohman  
 Shawnae Houston  
 Da Vion Huey  
 Mason Hughes



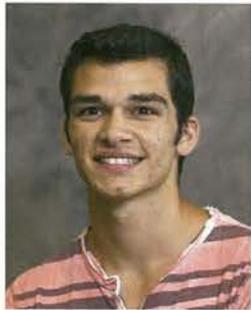
Cody Israel  
 Charles Jackson  
 Christyan Jagers  
 Deja Jennings

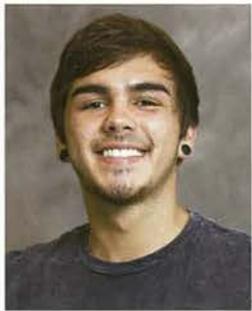


Allan Jernigan  
 Frank Jiang  
 Aneisha Jones  
 Casey Jones



Jacob Kiefer  
 Jenna Kirkbride  
 Katherine Klasse  
 Ryan Knotts





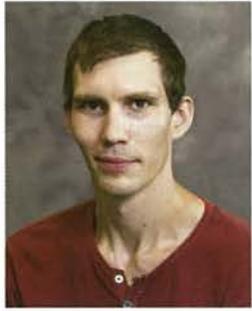
Myleigh Lanham  
Justin Lederer  
Lanny Leivan  
Ryan Long



Katarina Loving  
Jared Lowe  
Tiffany Mabery  
Kyler Martin



Arnea Matthews  
Najha McIntyre  
Logan Mckenzie  
Joseph Meugniot



Logan Meyer  
Samuel Miller  
Cassandra Mohling  
Daniel Montgomery

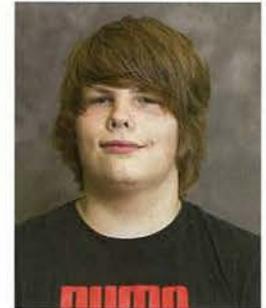
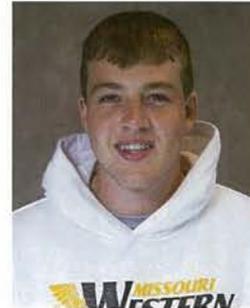


Ashley Moore  
Danielle Moore  
Katherine Moore  
Prince Mosley

Naim Muhammad  
Laura Murphy  
Devonte Neal  
Phillip Newsome



Casey Newton  
Mandy Nurski  
Boston Parker  
Travis Peek



Caitlyn Prater  
Eddie Quinton  
Jordan Ragsdale  
Destiny Redmond



Jalen Redmond  
Jennifer Reed  
Hannah Reger  
Brent Rosenauer



Curtis Ross  
Monyca Roup  
Erin Rule  
Teyonna Ruppert





Darrian Sampson  
 Ashlyn Schubert  
 Maria Selby  
 Michael Sevier



Abby Sexton  
 Kaitlin Shepard  
 Joshua Shorba  
 Jessie Simmons



Samantha Simmons  
 Ashley Simpson  
 Lake Sisk  
 Kenecia Smith



Shyneice Smith  
 Stormie Smith  
 Celeste Sneed  
 Chelsie Southern



Megan Standley  
 Mason Stebbins  
 Tanner Sturdevant  
 Savana Swan

Viola Toma  
Kenley Turner  
Taylor Wallace  
Shantrell Walton



Kiley Warriner  
Christyauna Watkins  
Taryn Weber  
Aviana Wheeler



Brittney Williams  
Jernay Williams  
Kulani Williams  
Vincent Williams



Jacob Wright  
Nicolas Wright  
Whitney Wyckoff  
Mariah Young



Mikala Zuber



# Sophomores



Ronald Baker  
Camile Banez  
Raymond Bogan-Clay  
Garrett Brooks



Morgan Brown  
Erin Bua  
Nicholas Calovich  
Adam Carroll



Courtney Carter  
Taylor Claypool  
Eddie Creagh  
Zachary Czarnecki



Taylyr Daniels  
Abigail Davidson  
Graham Deckard  
Kelsey Dewey

Pearl Dorvlo  
Jessika Eidson  
Caleb Fankhauser  
Mairiel Fleming



Ashley Gardner  
Marlon Grayer  
Aijah Grey-Hagens  
Cal Griencewic



Tyler Hampton  
Jill Harris  
Zachary Harris  
Deidra Hebb



Wraith Hill  
Sydnie Holzfaster  
Faith Hoover  
Shelby House



Chris Johnson  
Marisa Jordan  
Harley Kennon  
Matthew Killen

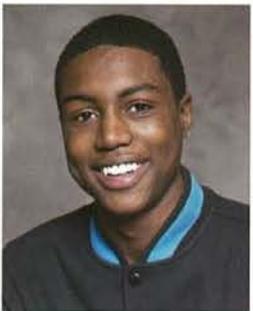




Sarah Lyle  
 Thomas Marshall  
 Madeline Marx  
 Shian Mcbee



Taylor Mcgrath  
 Ladaisha Miller  
 Levi Moore  
 Rachel Murillo



Donald Noland  
 Cami Pendleton  
 Jenell Potter  
 Shane Resler



Stephanie Riggins  
 Raymon Roberts  
 Omar Ross  
 Blair Russell



Matthew Scholz  
 Alia Sheya  
 Sarah Shonk  
 Zach Stark

Ronyiek Stevenson  
Kara Streebin  
Joni Thomas  
Melvin Thompson



Elijah Todd  
Justin Turner  
Austin Vance  
Robert Vardiman



Deneisha Watson  
Tara Williams  
Ronald Wilson



# Juniors

Carlisha Abdullah  
Sharlene Ackman  
Ilbrahim Al Qahtani  
Jasmine Ali





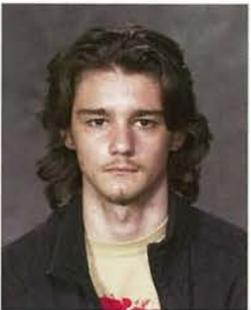
Luana Barreto De Almeida  
 Cosimo Cannella  
 Tessa Courtoise  
 Tyree Cullors



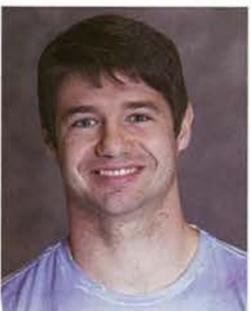
Ebony Davis  
 Tiago De Oliveira Lira  
 Meranda Dennis  
 Terrence Duff



Shelby Ewart  
 Charlie Flemons  
 Tyler Francis  
 Cedric Gray



Ashley Greer  
 Russell Gummelt  
 Daniel Hager  
 Fabian Heil



Krystal Hicok  
 Holly Hoover  
 Joshua Hughart  
 Eric Hunter

Rachal Jackson  
Richard Jackson  
Samuel Kelly  
Jessica Kopp



Amarra Lee  
Fiona Lu  
Kori Marshall  
Emily McComb



Crishawn McGuder  
Brady McIntosh  
Abbey McKern  
Amanda Miller

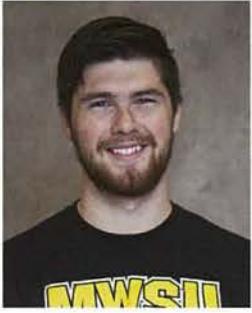


Tyler O'neill  
Robert Pace  
Katelyn Richardson  
Carter Sansone



Bryant Scott  
Christy Simmons  
Kesha Stark  
Eric Stinson





Jacob Teasley  
 Barbara Timothe  
 Tyrehn Valentine  
 Lauran West



Bryson Wooden

# Seniors

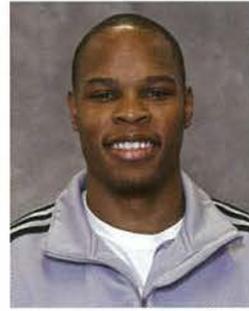


Alicia Allen  
 Elizabeth Betram  
 Lachelle Billups  
 Kasey Booth



Shelby Bratton  
 Shannon Burke  
 Victoria Byerley  
 Katelyn Canon

Adam Catton  
Daniel Cobb  
Cortez Colbert  
Crystal Crawford



JaQuitta Dever  
Jacob Dowell  
Joseph Evert  
Hunter Ewart



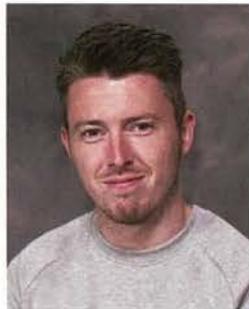
Kaylin Falterman  
Amanda Francis  
Kaleigh Frazier  
James Garrison



Tiffany Gillaspy  
Samuel Goodroad  
Taylor Griffie  
Lindsey Hartley



Michael Hindhaugh  
Hardy Ho  
Melissa Kaster  
Makanda Katambwa





Katherine Kempf  
Danielle Kreglo  
Matthew Kurtz  
Cedric Lohse



Janica Lowry  
Lindsey Lucas  
Mason Marshall  
James McDonald



Kaela McKenzie  
Norman Monteith  
Regine Muller  
Isaac Myers



Richard Nash  
Caresse Owens  
Chelsea Parkhurst  
Clifford Petersen



Kenneth Price  
Michelle Price  
Kathy Proski Large  
Karen Quintana Planalp

Alfredo Ramirez-Lucas  
Brian Ramsay  
Christopher Rayle  
Mary Robbins



Stephen Robbs  
Sharon Rodriguez Benarroch  
Samantha Rogers  
Christina Ruark



Erin Seabolt  
Albert Shelby  
Brian Shewell  
Garrett Skrbina



Natalie Spivey  
Jodi Stamback  
Alex Stearns  
Elliot Swope



Jeni Swope  
Eric Toliver  
Emily Tyson  
Kevin Velasquez



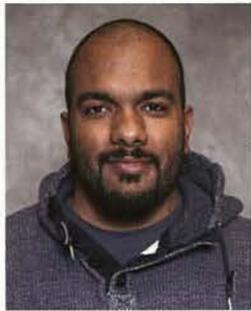


Jessica Voelk  
Christina Wade  
Kristina Warford  
WJT Way



Gregory Williams  
Precious Wood  
Nicholas Yetman

# Graduates



Kiarash Abhari  
Abdykgader Almkkawi  
Nasser Alsowayigh  
Sarika Gongalla



Gilbert Imbiri  
Yu Meng  
Sunny Reddy Medapati  
Violetta Valeeva

# GRIFFON FACULTY & STAFF

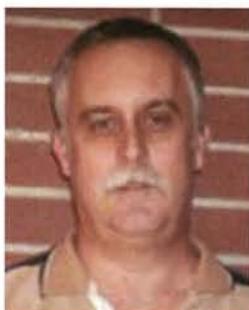
James Adkins  
Kaye Adkins  
Jessica Agnew



Kevin Anderson  
Dana Andrews  
Len Archer  
David Ashley



Jennifer Atkinson  
Brian Baker  
Dawn Baker  
Jason Baker





Julie Baldwin  
Belinda Ball  
James Bargar  
Csengele Barta



Cynthia Bartles  
Susan Bashinski  
Ana Bausset-Page  
Joel Beard



Aaron Bell  
Stacia Bensyl  
Robert Bergland  
Kit Blake



Brenda Blessing  
Debby Bogle  
Kara Bollinger  
Christopher Bond

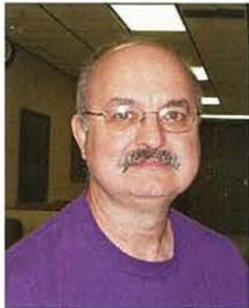
Melody Boring  
Stacey Bowen  
Lisa Breckenridge  
Evelyn Brooks



Steven Brooks  
Carolyn Brose  
Patricia Brost  
Laurie Bryant Coe



Marshall Bucher  
Michael Buckler  
Laura Buhman  
Christa Byer



Mike Cadden  
Ben Caldwell  
Cristi Campbell  
Marian Carbin





Susan Carter  
 James Carviou  
 John Casey  
 Michael Charlton



Roxanne Chase  
 Cary Chevalier  
 Michael Chiao  
 Paul Choi



William Church  
 Susan Clafin  
 Gary Clapp  
 Pam Clary



Debra Cole  
 Isaiah Collier  
 Stephanie Corder  
 John Courington

Bryan Courtney  
Debbie Crisier  
Brian Cronk  
Noel Cross



Joey D. Thompson  
Jeanne Daffron  
Melissa Daggett  
Sunil Dahanayake



Douglas Davenport  
Carol Davison  
Teddi Deka  
CPT Jeffery Devaul-Fetters



Saundra Dibella  
Regan Dodd  
Marsha Dolan  
Dawn Drake

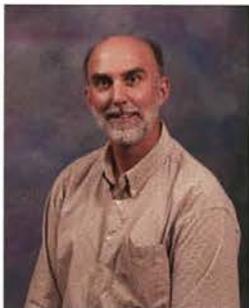




Mike Ducey  
 Todd Eckdahl  
 Dan Eckhoff  
 Chad Edwards



Matthew Edwards  
 Taylor Edwin  
 Douglas Eicher  
 Thomas Erik Angerhofer



Scott Ertekin  
 Brett Esely  
 Jonathan Euchner  
 Claudia Evans



Castilla O. F. Eduardo  
 Kelly Fast  
 Latoya Fitzpatrick  
 Tammy Flowers

Amy Foley  
Rebecca Foley  
Tim Ford  
Charlotte Foster



Martha Lou Fowler  
Derek Frieling  
Jana Frye  
Eric Fuson



Ashley Garr  
Mary Jo Gay  
Nathan Gay  
Cheria Gemmell



Aron Gerhart  
Brett Gerling  
Shawna Gilliland  
Tammy Glise

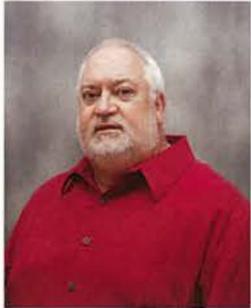




Sue Godbolt  
 Martha Greer  
 John Gregory  
 Steven Greiert



Brenda Griffith  
 Konrad Gunderson  
 Reza Hamzaee  
 Julie Hansbrough



Cosette Hardwick  
 Rick Hardy  
 Lee Harrelson  
 Barbara Harris



Crystal Harris  
 David Harris  
 Shawna Harris  
 Teresa Harris

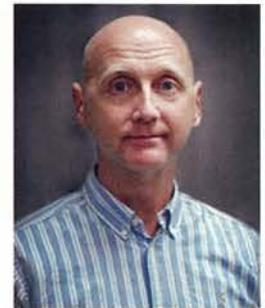
Karma Hartong  
Steven Hatch  
Connie Hecker  
Cheryl Heckman



Dana Heldenbrand  
Susie Hennessy  
Dallas Henry  
Kelly Henry



Elise Hepworth  
Matt Hepworth  
Brandon Herring  
John Hewitt



Sauna Hiley  
Jack Hilsabeck  
Stena Hinkle  
Jeff Hinton





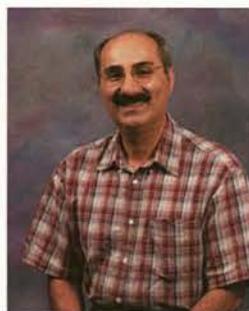
Jeanette Holland  
Teri Holt  
Peter Hriso  
Chris Huffman



Jane Hughes  
Marilyn Hunt  
Sara Hunt  
Kathy James



Deborah Jeffries  
Cynthia Jeney  
Adrienne Johnson  
Becky Johnson



Britton Johnson  
David Jordan  
Tara Kalis  
Ali Kamali

Meredith Katchen  
Joanne Katz  
Mike Kelley  
Heather Kendall



Catherine Kendig  
Joachim Kirbirige  
Suzanne Kissock  
Timothy Kissock

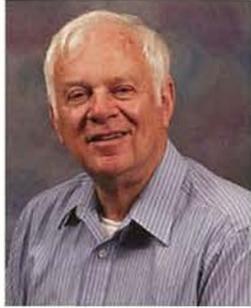


Steve Klassen  
Pam Klaus  
Gladys Kline  
Brooksie Kluge



Melinda Kovacs  
Karen Koy  
Justin Kraft  
David Kratz Mathies

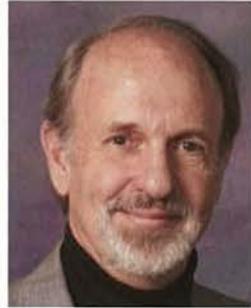




Greg Kriewitz  
 Dale Krueger  
 Patty Kuechler  
 Marianne Kunkel



Bob Lance  
 Cindy Lance  
 Michael Lane  
 Peggy Lane



Elizabeth Latosi-Sawin  
 Neil Lawley  
 Catherine Lawson  
 Larry Lawson



Peggy Leland  
 Jay Lemanski  
 Mark Lewis  
 Kathy Liao

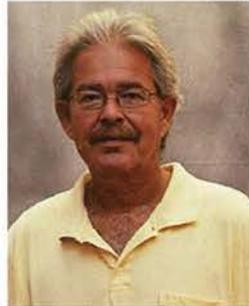
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Sherry Lisenbee  
Tony Loeffler  
Matt Loehr



Sebastian Loewen  
Bob Long  
Steve Lorimor  
Bill Luce

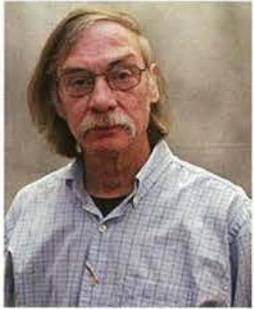


Christina Lund  
Michael Lund  
Brett Luthans  
Dalong Ma



Vivek Madupu  
Jeanie Manning  
Gordon Mapley  
David Marble

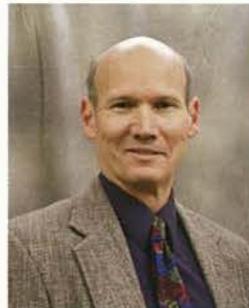
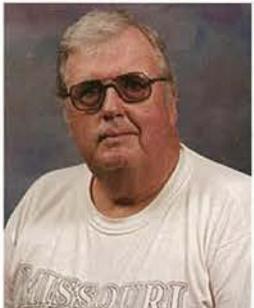




Joe Marmaud  
 Susan Martens  
 Anali Mathies  
 Nathanael May



MAJ Kevin McCullagh  
 Lori McCune  
 Jennie McDonald  
 David McIntire

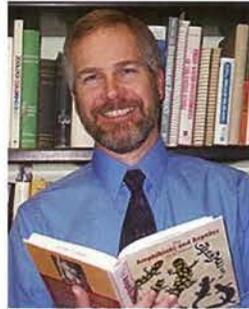


Patrick McLearn  
 David McMahan  
 Patrick H. McMurry  
 Rico McNeela



David McWilliams  
 Shana Meyer  
 Jay Meyers  
 Amy Miller

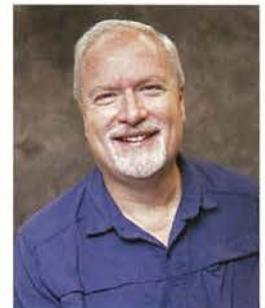
Tim Miller  
Mark Mills  
Susan Montee  
Deborah Moore



Signe Mueller  
Ashley Murawski  
Leanna Murray  
Philip Nitse



Fredrica Nix  
Laura Nold  
J. Evan Noyaert  
Robert Nulph



James Okapal  
Michael Ottinger  
Alicia Otto  
Jeffery Owen





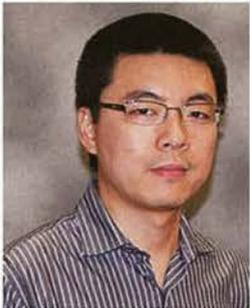
Alex Owens  
Cathy Pankiewicz  
Gerald Partridge  
Anne Pearce



Chase Peeples  
Derek Petry  
Luke M. Philips  
Kent Pickett



Jerry Pickman  
Lawrence Pilgrim  
Jeffrey Poet  
Sandy Prescher

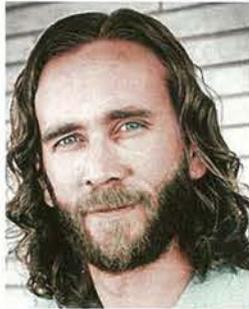


William Puett  
Long Qiao  
Gretchen Quenstedt-Moe  
Tee Quillin

Thomas Rachow  
Maureen Raffensperger  
Beth Ann Reinert  
Ryan Rezzelle



Jonathan Rhoad  
Glenn Rice  
Jennet Riggs  
Miguel Rivera-Taupier



Bill Roach  
Ian F. Roberts  
Kelly Robin  
Dennis Rogers



Kristin Rose  
John Rushin  
William Russell  
Suzanne Ryan Strati





Steven Saffell  
Victoria Sample  
Casandra Samuel  
Laura Sapp



Allison Sauls  
Stephanie Schartel  
Dunn  
Carolyn Schindler  
Kay Seibler



Merrill Shaffer  
Daniel Shepherd  
Jenny Sherlock  
Machelle Skinner



Gerald Small  
Kipton Smilie  
Deb Smith  
Faye Smith

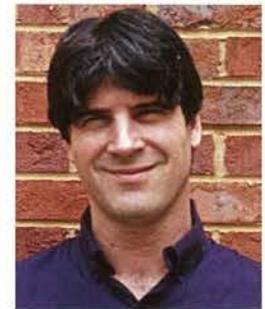
Melody Smith  
Michael Smith  
Monty Smith  
Roger Smith



Jason Soper  
Jennifer Soper  
Dan Stasko  
Stephanie Stewart



Mary Stone  
Jeff Stover  
Aaron Stutterheim  
Taylor Sulton Quedensley



Lynne Susie Pryor  
Stan Svojanovsky  
Roger Swafford  
Jeremy Swenson





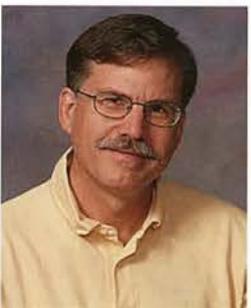
Shensheng Tan  
Tiffany Tant-Shafer  
John Tapia  
Prashant Tarun



Alecia Taylor  
Orion Teal  
MSG Lesley Tener  
Dawn Terrick



Greg Thurmon  
Janelle Torres Y Torres  
Deb Treat  
Daniel Trifan



Reginald Trotter  
Scott Tucker  
Stacy Turner  
David Tushaus

Christine Vanhoozer  
Robert Vartabedian  
Debbie Vaughn  
Sharon Vest



Barbara Voigt  
Kristen Walton  
Bin Wang  
Kyla Ward

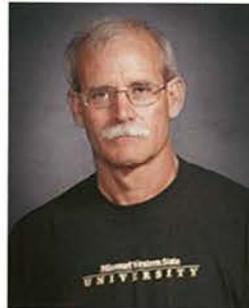
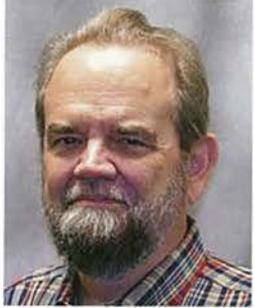


Tyra Wanke  
Kim Weddle  
Annette Weeks  
Brett Weiberg



Kristy Weiberg  
Darrin Welchart  
Ray Wells  
Alex Willemin





Robert Willenbrink  
 Tom Williamson  
 Jamie Willis  
 Kip Wilson



Michelle Wolfe  
 Karen Woodbury  
 Jeff Woodford  
 George Yang



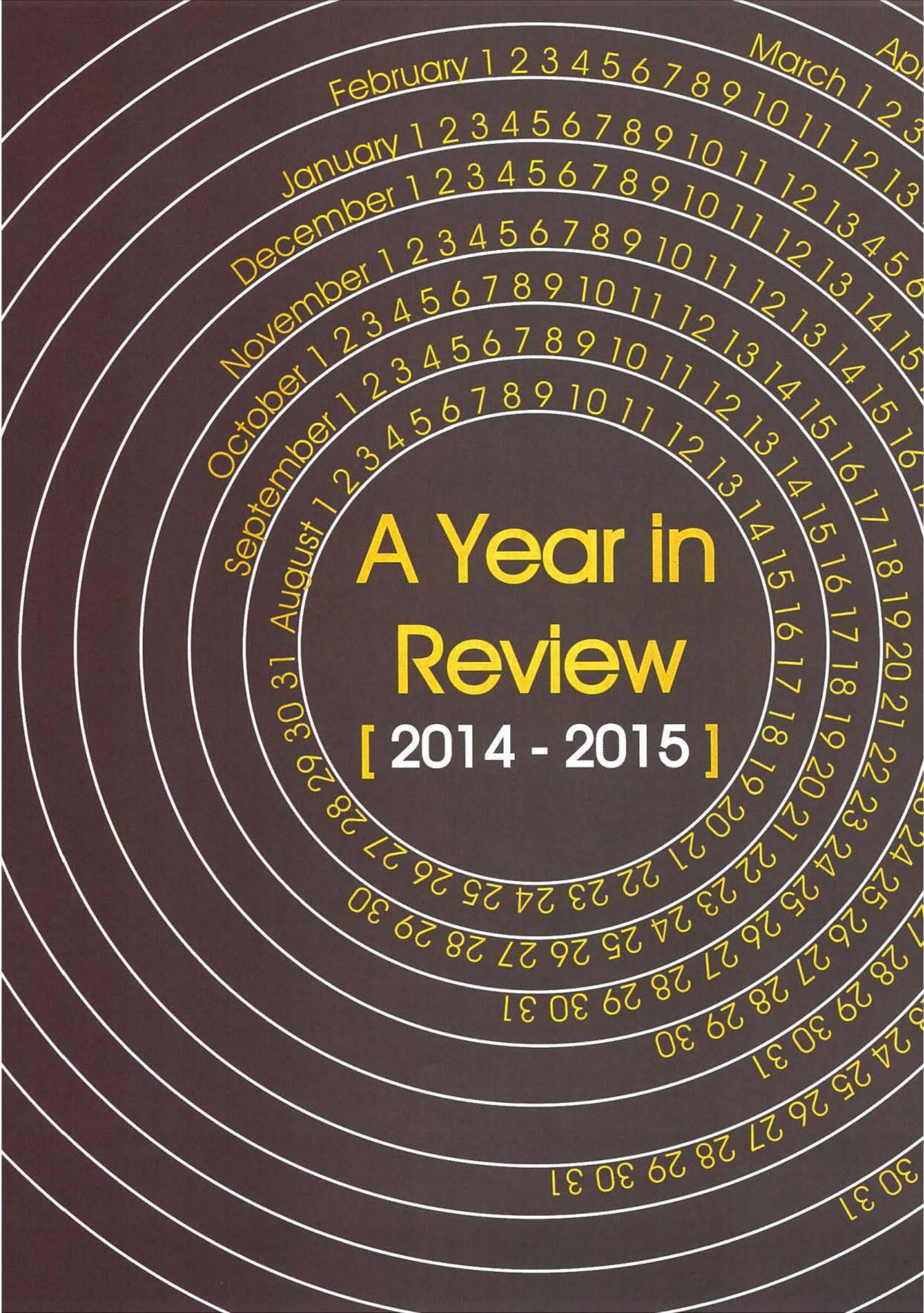
Nichola Yeager  
 Carlos Yebra Lopez  
 Pi-Ming Yeh  
 Mei Zhang



Zhao Zhang  
 Zhou Zhenglv  
 Jinwen Zhu  
 Christine Ziemer

# A Year in Review

[ 2014 - 2015 ]





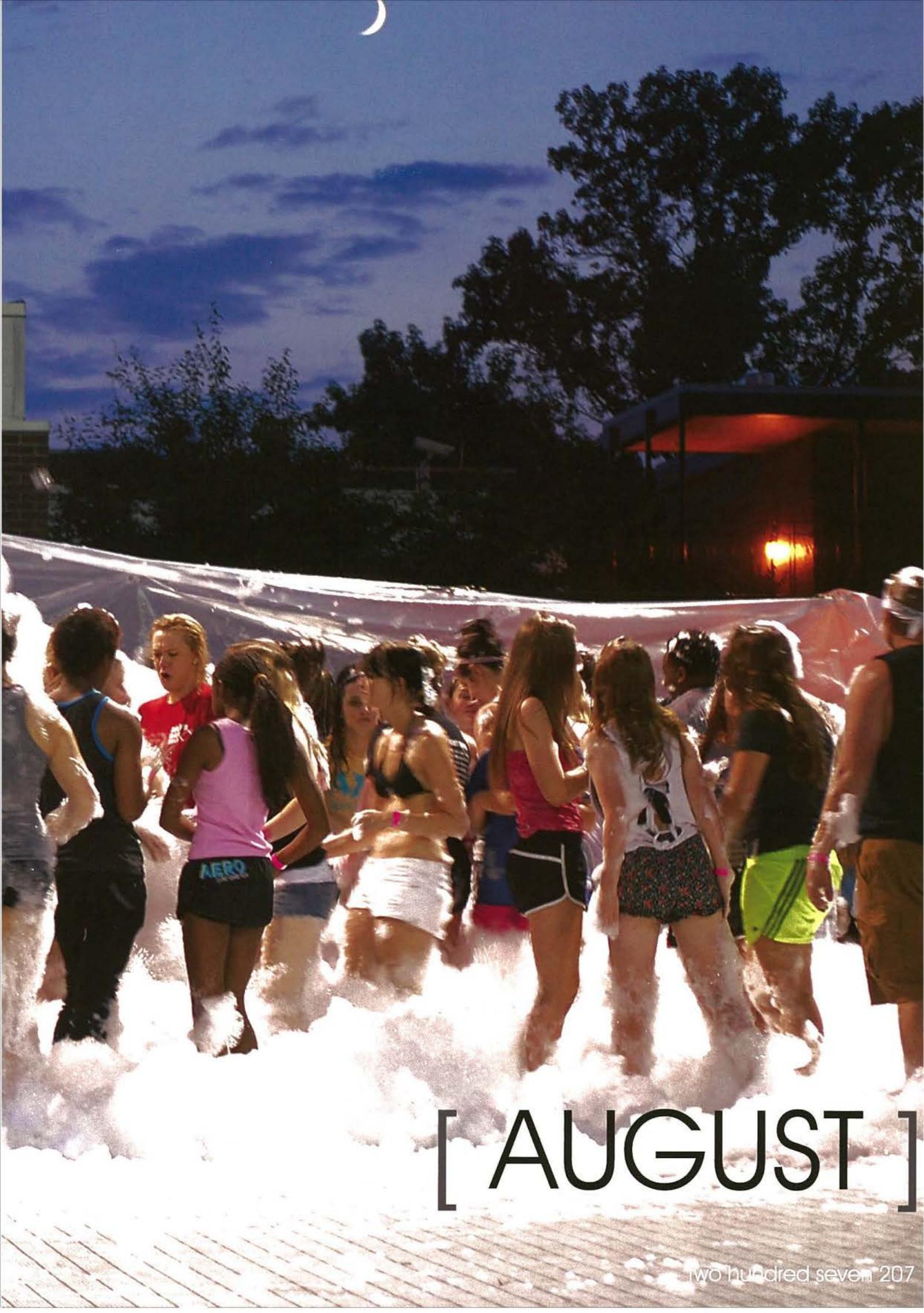
**T**hroughout the past year, the students of Missouri Western have been able to enjoy their campus with a variety of events and beautiful scenery.

Whether it be student life, centennial celebrations or unpredictable Missouri weather, we at The Griffon hope you enjoy the photos we've compiled for the 2014-2015 school year.

Students kick off the school year at the annual foam party. The event, hosted by Western Activities Council, filled a basketball court with foam and featured music by DJ Sound Ninja.

[ Photo: Jodi Stamback ]





[ AUGUST ]

The park bench serves as a scenic resting place in front of Griffon Hall. The residence hall was built in 2011.

[ Photo: Jessika Eidson ]





[ SEPTEMBER ]

Curley's wife (Samantha Simmons) confronts Lenny (Riley Bayer) in Missouri Western's "Of Mice and Men." The production opened Missouri Western's 2014-2015 theatre season, and was nominated for multiple Irene Ryan awards.

[ Photo: Jeni Swope ]

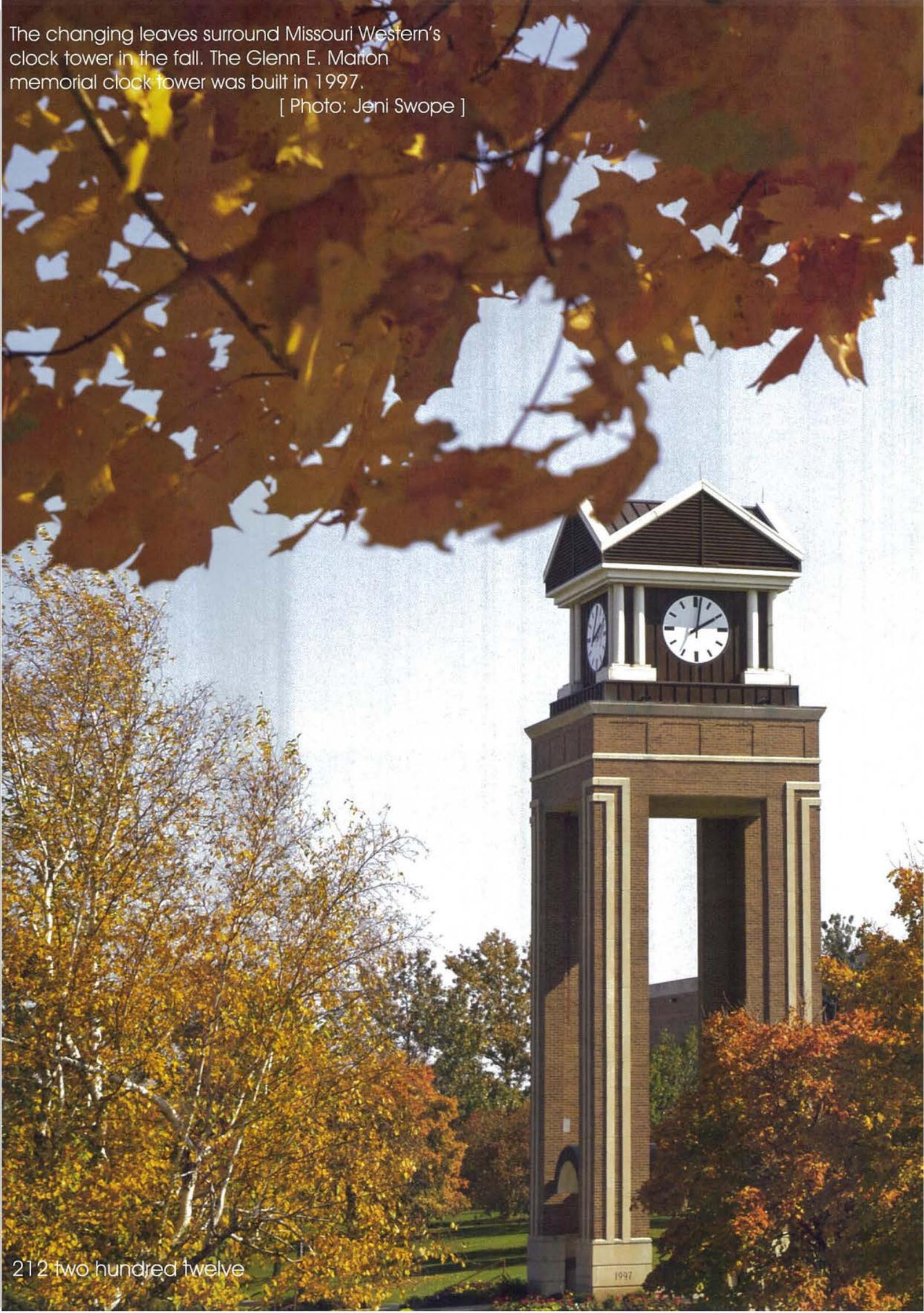


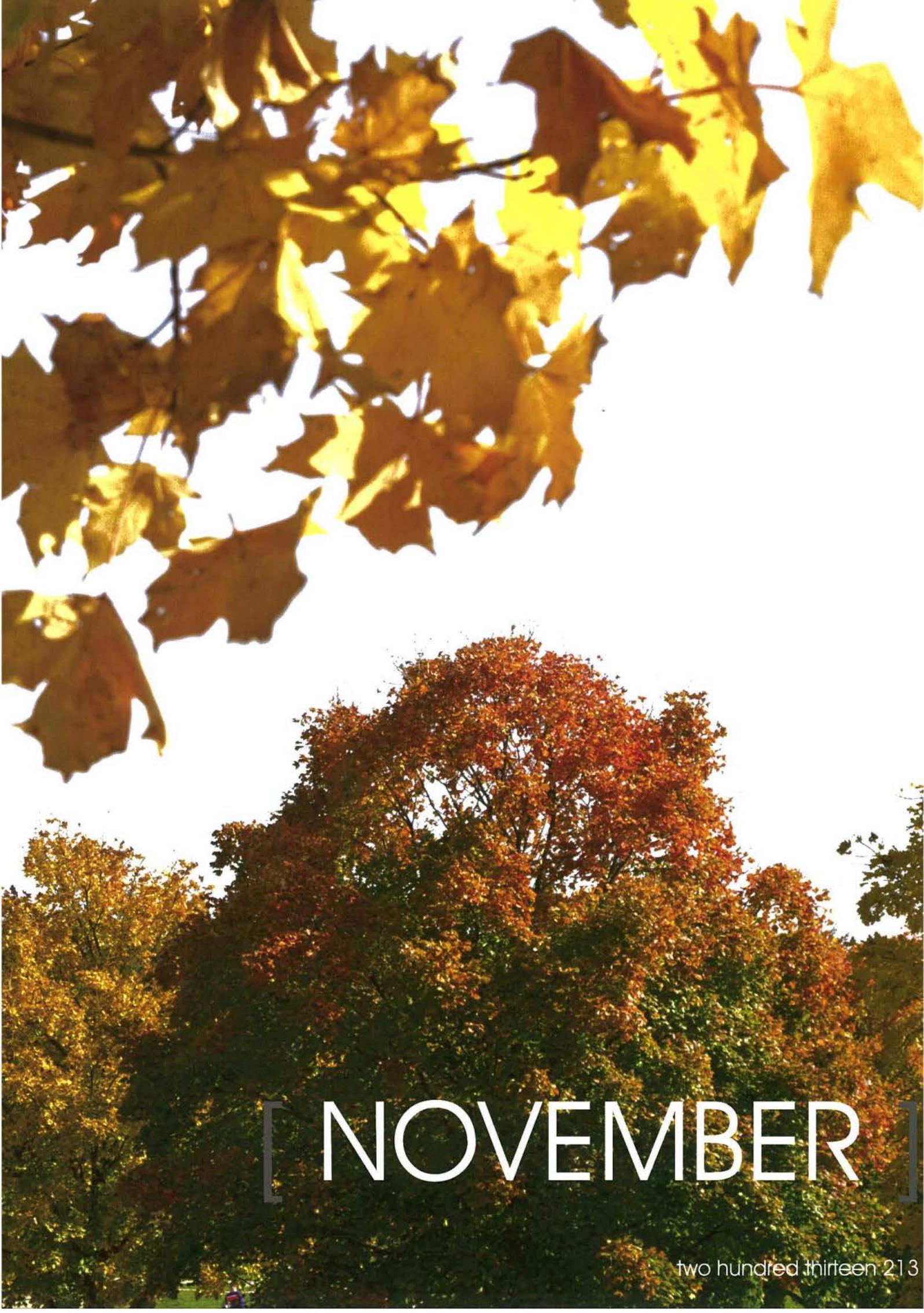
[ OCTOBER ]



The changing leaves surround Missouri Western's clock tower in the fall. The Glenn E. Marion memorial clock tower was built in 1997.

[ Photo: Jeni Swope ]





# [ NOVEMBER ]

Snow covers the University Plaza Griffon while students are away on winter break. The University Plaza was built in 2007 under President James Scanlon.

[ Photo: Jeni Swope ]



[ DECEMBER ]

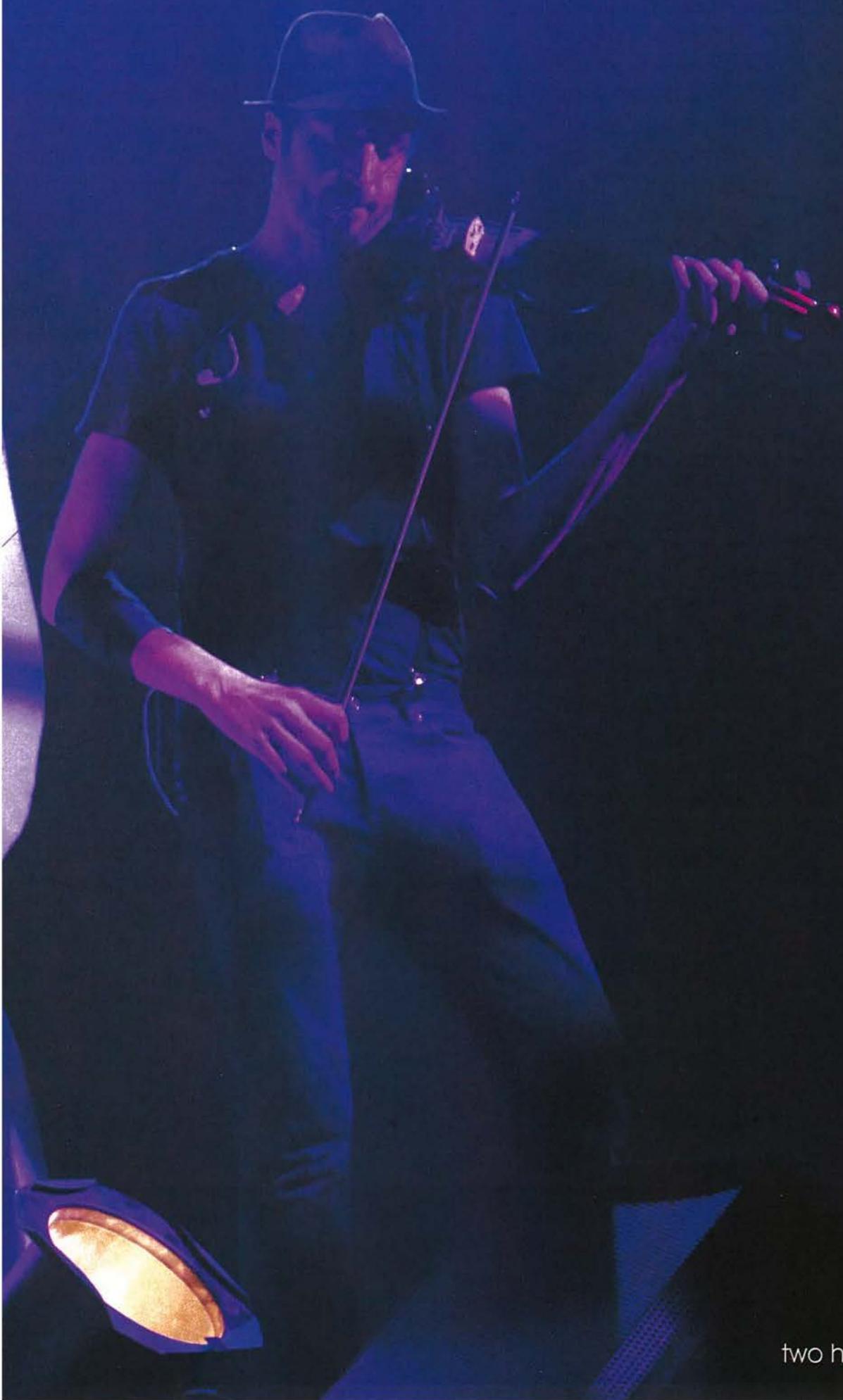


Earth Harpist Andrea Brooke and violinist  
Shane Both perform at the Centennial Capital  
Campaign Kick-Off. The kick off launched  
the series of events taking place during the  
Centennial year of Missouri Western State  
University.

[ Photo: Jeni Swope ]



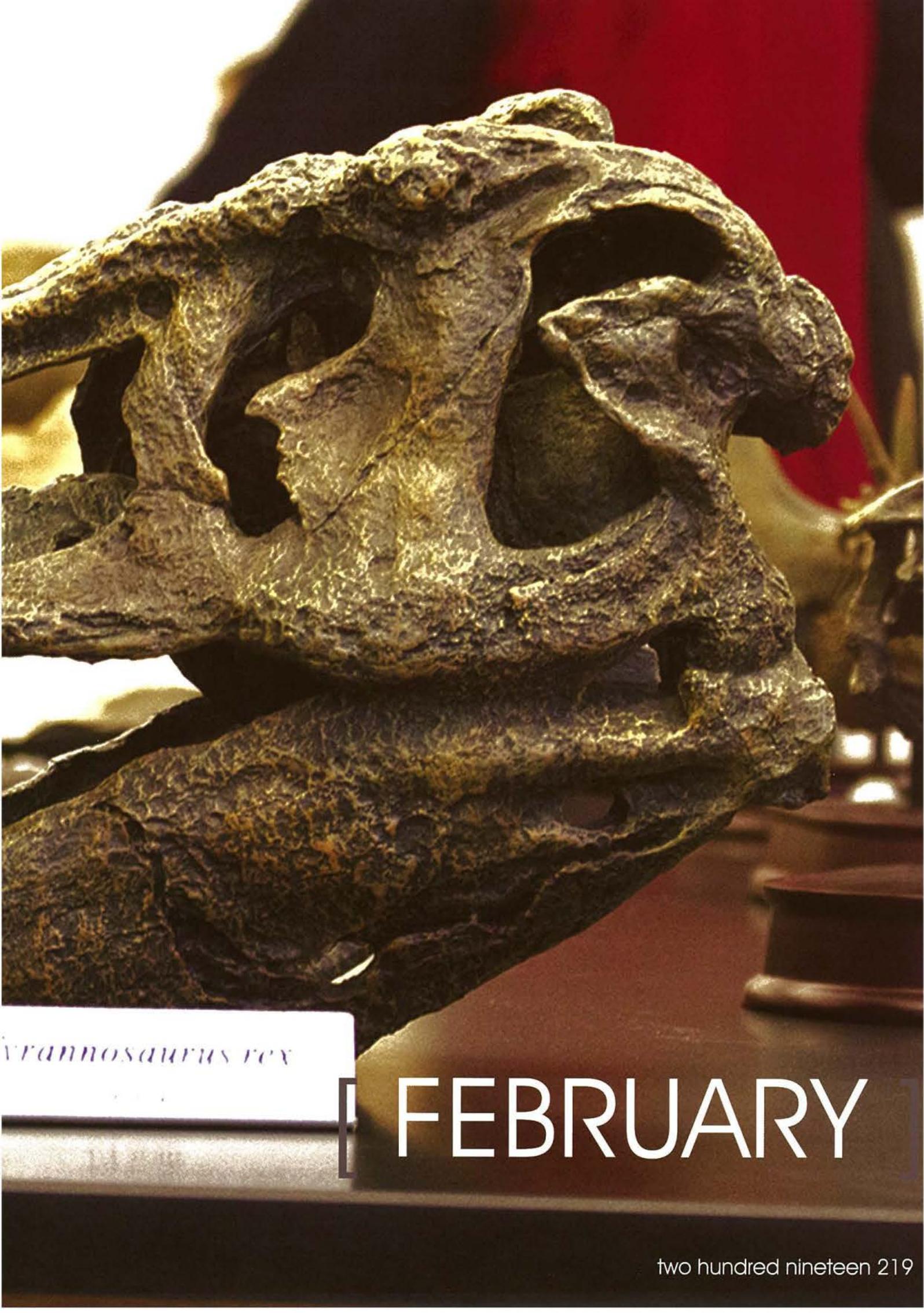
# [ JANUARY ]





The fossil of a Tyrannosaurus rex on display during Science Saturday. Many exhibits were under wraps in classrooms at in the classrooms.

[ Photo: Tommy Marshall ]



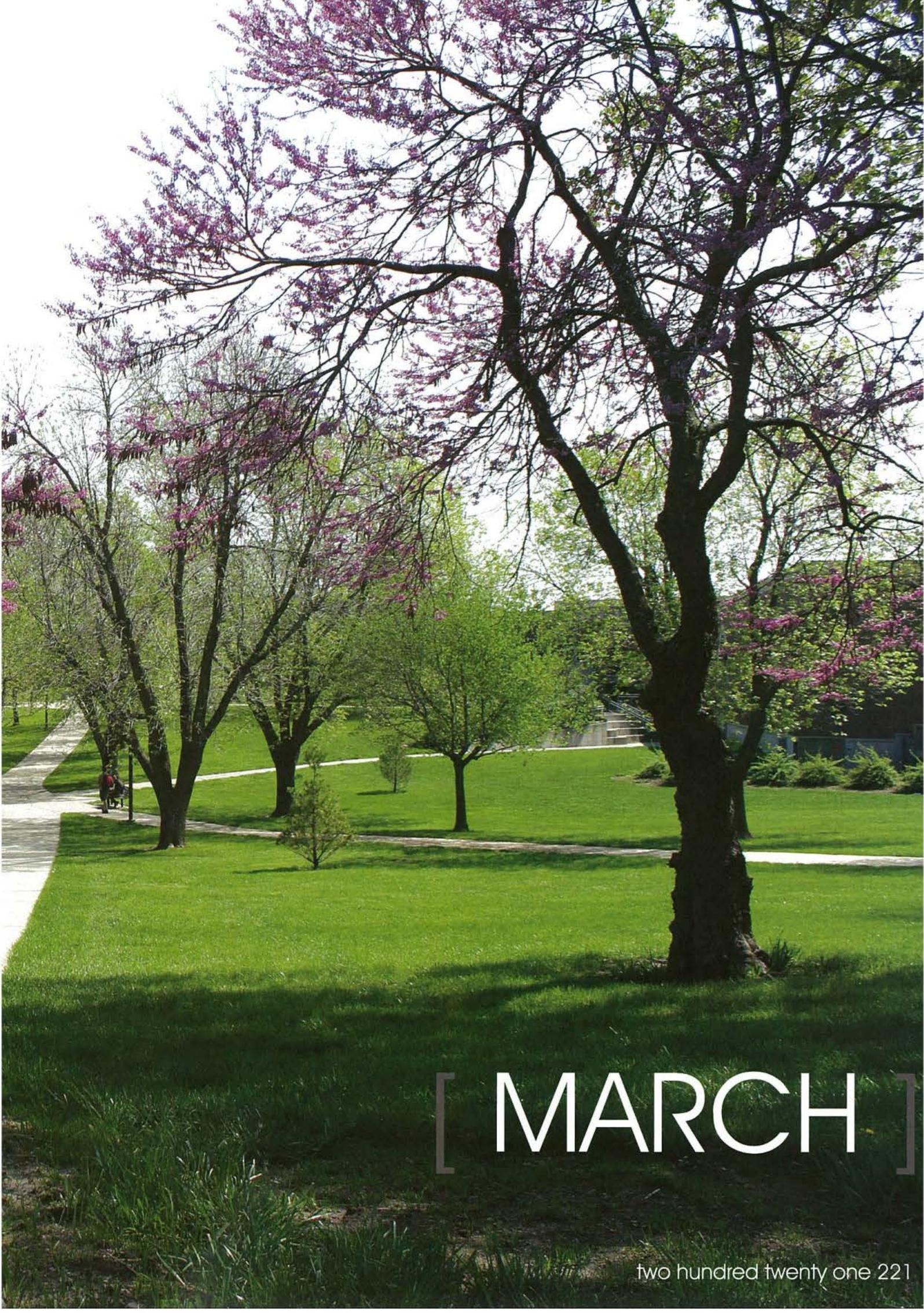
*Tyrannosaurus rex*

[ FEBRUARY

Students enjoy the early spring air on campus.  
The blossoming trees provided shade for those  
looking to study outside.

[ Photo: Jeni Swope ]





[ MARCH ]

A student attempts to stay dry during the rainiest month of the semester. Missouri averaged 3.65 inches of rainfall during the month of April.

[ Photo: Jodi Stamback ]

[ APRIL ]



Key figures in Missouri Western's history join Dr. Vartabedian for the ground-breaking of new Spratt Stadium. Improvements to the stadium were approved in early 2014 and started at the start of the summer.

[ Photo: Gilbert Imbiri ]



[ MAY ]



# The Griffon Staff

Interviews between classes. Photo shoots scheduled 20 minutes before work. Writing stories in the few spare minutes you have before walking on stage. Editing stories long past bed time. The life of a staff member on The Griffon isn't always the easiest, but it sure is rewarding. Thanks to the hardwork of these individuals, this book has been filled with the stories that matter to the students, faculty and staff of Missouri Western State University. The editors of The Griffon are eternally thankful for all of your hardwork and look forward to seeing your accomplishments in the years to come.



**Jess Voelk**  
Copyeditor

Jess came to The Griffon in Spring of 2015 and took on the tedious task of copyediting the stories for the book. She worked quickly and efficiently to ensure that our stories made sense and corrected our late night typing errors. Though she be quiet, she is fierce!



**Andy Garrison**  
Web Design

Andy may have been the latest addition to the team, but has worked hard to give The Griffon a new and exciting web page. His hard work to coordinate efforts with the student newspaper and news show to create a unified presence is greatly appreciated.



**Elliot Swope**  
Mascot/Cheerleader,  
Designer

Elliot came to the yearbook via his wife, Jeni. Despite not actually joining staff by choice, he became an integral member. Elliot spent many late hours helping edit photos, making Starbucks runs, and cracking jokes during deadline nights that lasted far too late, Elliot's support was appreciated by all.



**Hardy Ho**  
Designer, Web Content

Hardy Ho was a veteran Design Editor who came back to be on staff for his last semester. His experience and leadership helped us design the cover for the book and navigate the team through the fall semester, until his graduation in December.

## Blair Russell

Athletics, Profiles



The spring semester was Blair's first time with the yearbook, but she was a quick learner and was always willing to try something new. Her work covering sports and profiles proved to enrich the book and challenge her as a journalist. Her hard work and team-player attitude was greatly appreciated, and we look forward to seeing her on staff next year.

Tiffany brought her dedication to excellence on the softball field with her when she joined the staff of The Griffon in the spring semester. As one of our main sports writers, Tiffany worked hard to get interviews and write her stories between softball games, numerous award

nominations and her other commitments, proving that she had what it takes to get the job done and to do it well.

## Tiffany Gillaspay

Athletics



## Ronald Baker

Academics, Student Life



Ron was by far, the comedian of the staff for both semesters. Despite being involved in multiple stage productions, Ron worked hard to get stories finished and maintain some of his sanity. Famous for being able to lighten the mood on even the worst days, Ron's good attitude and comedic presence was appreciated by all.

Tommy was the go-to guy for just about anything that was needed, whether it was photos in a pinch or a last minute story. He went far beyond our expectations and in many ways, was responsible for far more

than his position demanded. Tommy was a quick learner and always willing to help, a trait that will serve him well as an editor of 2015-2016 edition of The Griffon. Best of Luck!

## Thomas Marshall

Personalities, Academics, Student Life, Athletics



## Sunny Reddy-Medapati

Graphics



Sunny joined staff as a graduate student with an already full work load. He was an integral helper with designing several of the graphics found in the book. Sunny's willingness to work hard, even if it meant redesigning something several times over was a great asset for The Griffon editors.

Sarika was such an asset to have over the last year. As a talented graphic designer, Sarika designed many of the sports infographics that are seen throughout the book and did so with grace. Her

adaptability was a huge help to the editors and will serve her well into the future.

## Sarika Gongalla

Graphics



# The Griffon *Editors*



**Jodi Stamback**, Editor-in-chief

**Degree:** B.S. in Public Relations

**Biggest Challenge:** "My biggest challenge over the course of the last year has been learning how to design and photography. I was comfortable with writing, but that was a lot harder than I anticipated!"

**Favorite Memory:** "Either going to see 'Phantom of the Opera' with the editors while we were in New York, or any of our deadline nights. Those were the nights we really bonded and became a team."

**Favorite Catchphrase:** "BRYANT! You're on the sh\*t list again!"

**Jeni Swope**, Photo and Video Editor

**Degree:** B.S. in Convergent Journalism

**Biggest Challenge:** "Learning that being photo editor was so much more than just doing photos. Juggling time was hard and I took on way more than expected."

**Favorite Memory:** "Getting hopelessly lost in Chinatown in NYC. We just put on our red sunglasses and went with it."

**Favorite Catchphrase:** "Jooooooh!!!!" or "WHO KEEPS TAKING MY CHAIR?!?!"





## Jessika Eldson, Managing Editor

**Degree:** B.S. in Convergent Media

**Biggest Challenge:** "Learning to balance family, friends, and work obligations"

**Favorite Memory:** "Late nights in the office. We would be working on deadline just joking arounds and listening to music."

**Favorite Catchphrase:** "I don't really have a catchphrase."

## Bryant Scott, Interim Design Editor



**Degree:** B.S. in Convergent Journalism

**Biggest Challenge:** "Having more responsibility to the publication than just writing a story."

**Favorite Memory:** "Creating and developing our friendships during our deadline nights."

**Favorite Catchphrase:** "WHAT DID I DO NOW?!?!?"

## James Carlou, Adviser

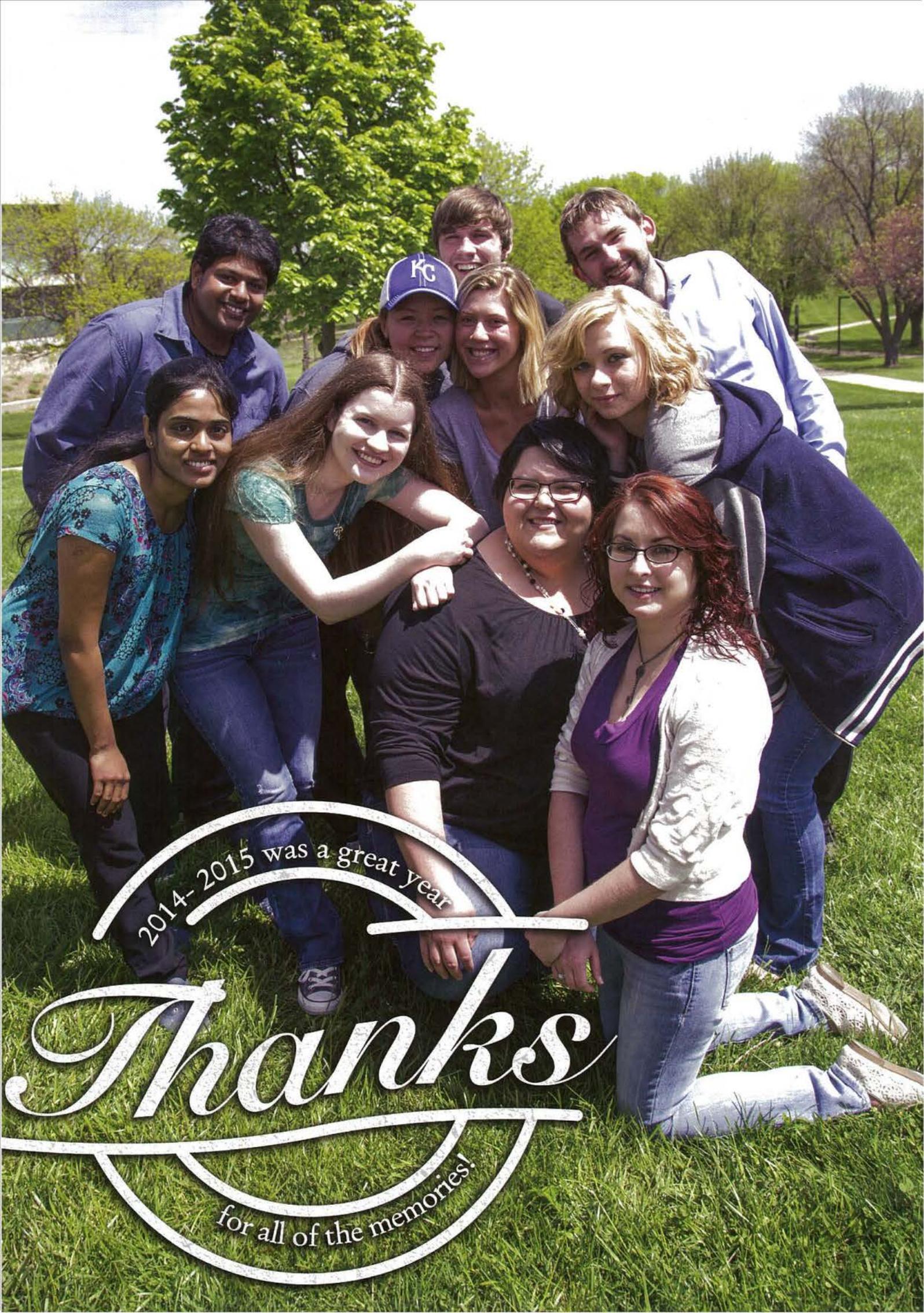


**Biggest Challenge:** "Keeping the momentum going by maintaining productivity throughout the year."

**Favorite Memory:** "Playing Cards Against Humanity with the staff at the Holiday party. There were awkward moments and a lot of laughter. It was a beautiful team building experience. Seeing the staff do their presentation at the College Media Association convention in NYC. They have truly become strong media professionals."

**Favorite Catchphrase:** "Let's go talk to Morgan about that..."





2014-2015 was a great year

*Thanks*

for all of the memories!

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Miracles really do happen.

It's been one hell of a rollercoaster ride throughout the last year as EIC of The Griffon. As a staff, we've managed to overcome insurmountable obstacles and faced challenges that we never imagined would come our way. We've lost and replaced nearly every editor, had what I can only guess is one of the smallest staffs in history, and managed to teach ourselves everything from design work, to photography, copy, and we've done it with style and grace. The centennial edition of The Griffon wouldn't have been even remotely possible if it hadn't been for the sacrifices from of each and every one of you. A simple 'thank you' doesn't even begin to cut it, and I have been truly proud to lead a staff of such talented, dedicated and driven individuals who were committed to seeing this through. I wish you all the best in the future to come.

Jeni,

The original. Thank you so much for sticking with me and helping me see my vision for the book through. We have been through so much together and I am so glad to have had you with me to avert so many crises. Your organizational skills are extraordinary, and pale only in comparison to your photography prowess. Throughout this last year, we've formed a friendship that will surely last for years to come. I can't tell you how much I appreciate everything you've done.

Jessie,

You are going to be a fantastic EIC. You've grown so much over the course of the last year. You've gone from a staff writer and photographer to Managing Editor, and now you're off to the challenge of being EIC next year. I look forward to watching you lead the editors and continue to grow. Best of luck!

Bryant,

As the newest member of the editorial staff, you've managed to exceed all of my expectations. You've lightened the mood and made all of us laugh

throughout our most stressful moments. I guess this means you're off the list...my list, anyway.

Jess, Sunny and Sarika,

The three of you have been absolutely integral to the process of knocking this book out. Sunny and Sarika, your graphic work has enriched the book in ways we never imagined. Jess, you madwoman behind the screen, thank you for all of your hard work with polishing and refining our stories.

James,

I genuinely appreciate you for giving me the opportunity to lead some of the finest people I have ever had the privilege of working with and for allowing us to attend conferences in Philadelphia and New York. They were truly enriching experiences that brought us closer together as a team and allowed us to visit places that many don't have the opportunity to.

Elliot,

Although you weren't an 'official' member of the yearbook team, thanks for being such a sport with everything. From working with portraits, editing videos, making food runs and telling terrible jokes to diffuse the stress, you've been a huge help. Thanks for being part of our team.

A big thank you to Dr. Vartabedian for writing our opening letter, Diane Holtz for helping us with photos and historical information, the faculty, administration and students for supporting us, and Griffon Update for video components, the Griffon News and the student body for submitting their stories and photos for publications. Without your support and contributions, this book wouldn't have been possible.



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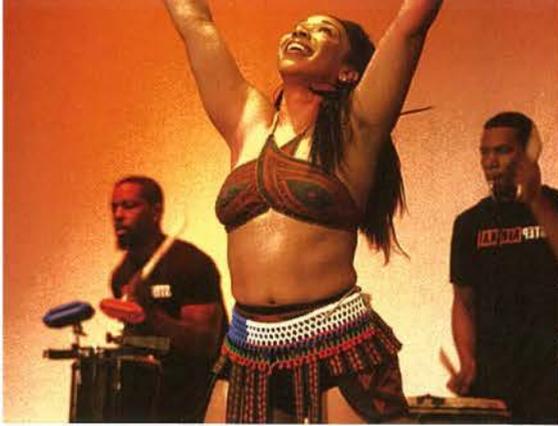
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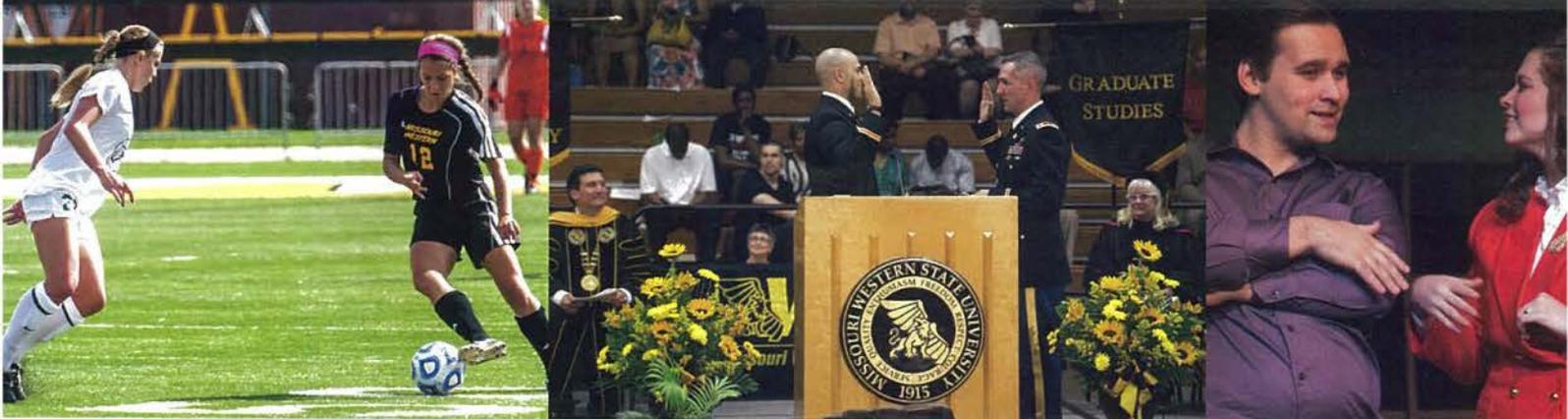
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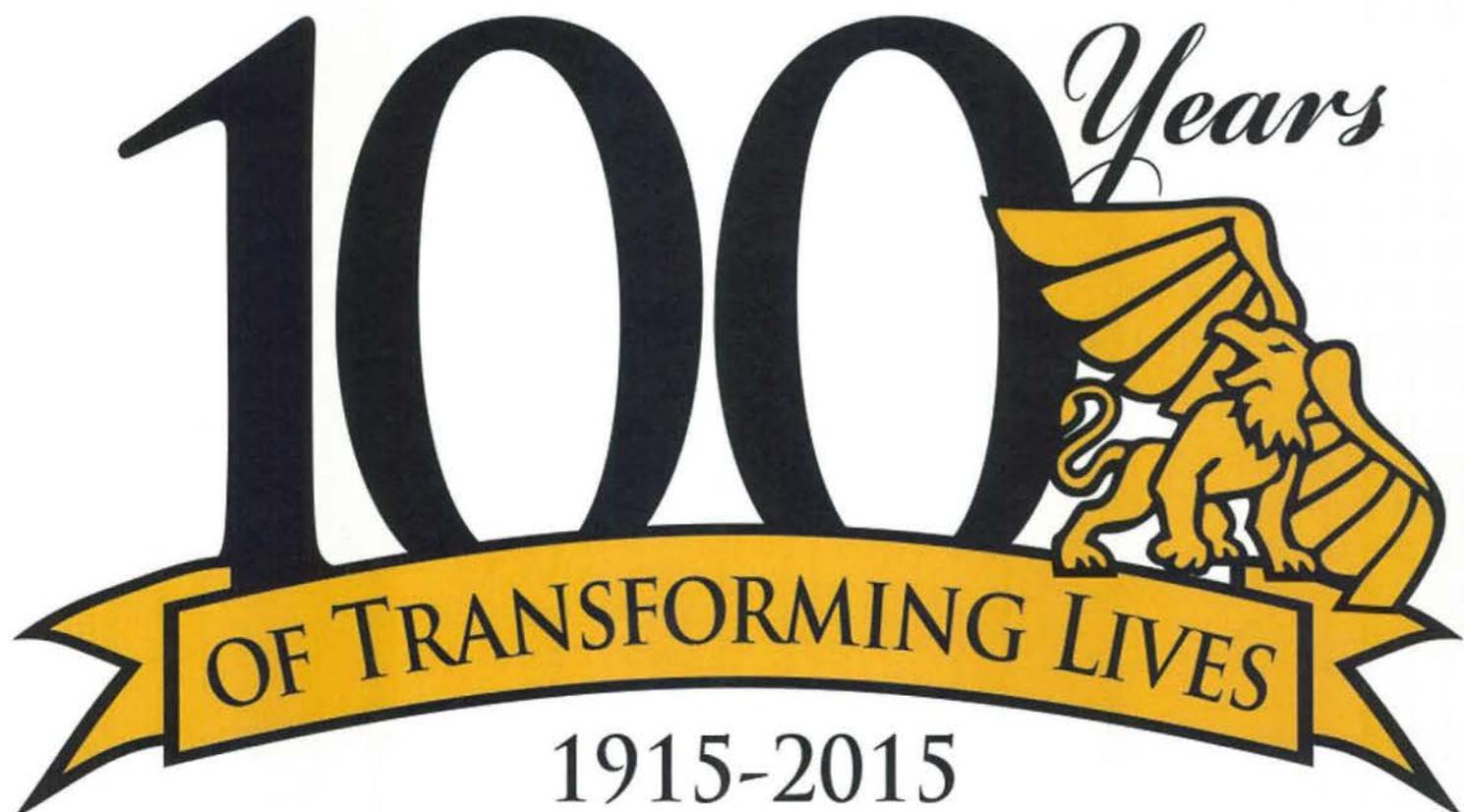
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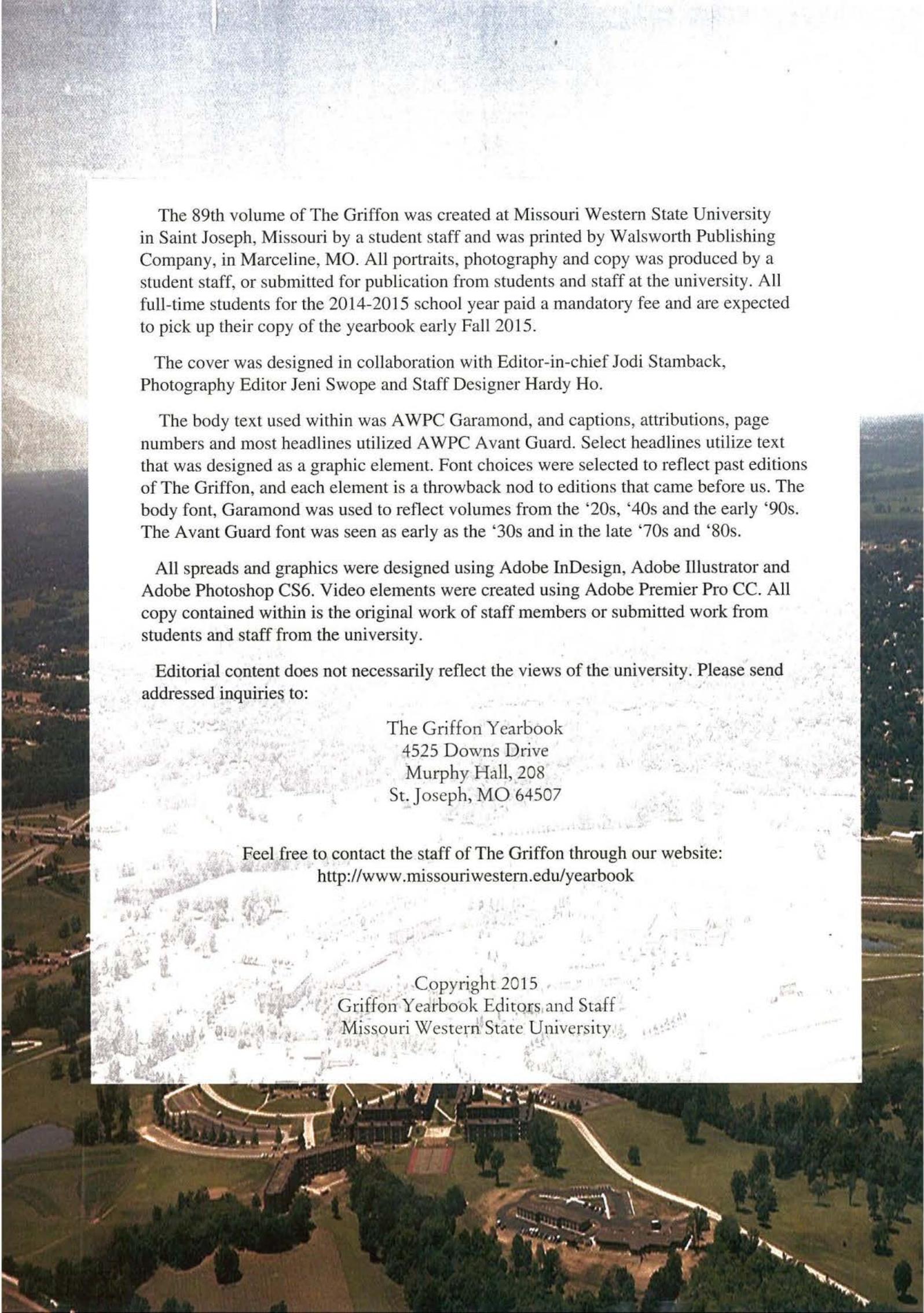
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